Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-238 14 December 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Ecuadoran, Costa Rican Presidents Comment in Quito *[Quito Radio]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

U.S. Legislators Meet With Castro, Alarcon *[Havana Radio]* 4
Castro: President Clinton Has 'More Open Spirit' *[AFP]* 4
Robaina Visits Colombia, Meets With Counterpart 4
Havana Radio Cites News Conference 4
Says Castro To Remain President *[Madrid EFE]* 5
Offers Medicines, Vaccines *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 5
Cuba-Caricom Joint Commission To Be Signed 13 Dec *[Havana Radio]* 6
Initial Issues Listed *[CANA]* 6
Officials Comment on Trade *[CANA]* 6
Cuban Official Visits Paraguay; Seeks Exchange *[ABC COLOR 12 Dec]* 8
Sports Agreement Signed With Mexico *[Madrid EFE]* 8
Zambian Sports Minister Arrives in Havana *[Havana Radio]* 9
Sports Agreements With Dominican Republic Pending *[Havana Radio]* 9
Athlete Seeks Asylum in United States *[CANA]* 9
Agriculture Minister: Subsidies To Be Lowered *[Havana Radio]* 9
EFE Report on Honduran Relations Cited *[Havana Radio]* 9
Emigres' Deaths on Way to U.S. Assessed *[Havana Radio]* 9
Havana City Sets Guidelines for Self-Employed *[Havana Radio]* 10
Commentary Notes U.S. Academic's 'Tacit' Messages *[Havana Radio]* 11
Labor Courts Performance Under Evaluation *[Havana Radio]* 11
Russian Elections, Political Changes Viewed *[Havana Radio]* 12
Government Requests Extradiction of Two Bolivians *[Havana Radio]* 12
National Defense School Holds Graduation *[Havana TV]* 13
Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 7-10 Dec *[Havana Radio, TV]* 13
* Rationale for Private Property Explained *[TRABAJADORES 8 Nov]* 14
* Roles of Trade Union, UBPC Discussed *[TRABAJADORES 15 Nov]* 15

Haiti

Varied Parties, Classes Support 11 Dec Demonstrations *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 16
'Friends of Haiti' Meet on Strengthening Embargo *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Multinational Meeting Opens *[AFP]* 17
Aristide May Withdraw Support From Conference *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
U.S. Repatriation Policy of Refugees Noted *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17

Jamaica

Strike Causes Public Health 'Crisis' *[CANA]* 17

MEXICO

Chamber of Deputies Approves Foreign Investment Law *[Mexico City TV]* 19
Trade Representative Reports on GATT Negotiations *[NOTIMEX]* 19

Salinas Congratulates Chile's Frei on Election Victory *[Mexico City TV]* 20
PDM Presidential Hopeful Madero Interviewed *[Mexico City TV]* 20

CENTRAL AMERICA

Belize

Former Diplomat Threatens To Sue Esquivel *[NOTIMEX]* 26

Costa Rica

'National Emergency' Declared in Flooded Areas *[ACAN]* 26

Guatemala

Fired Female Workers Occupy Korean Embassy *[ACAN]* 27
Workers Leave; Support Promised *[ACAN]* 27
De Leon Praises Air Force's Work on Anniversary *[Guatemala City TV]* 27
Enriquez on Returning Refugees, Peace Talks *[Guatemala City TV]* 28

Nicaragua

Parliamentary Factions Sign Agreement on Reforms *[BARRICADA 10 Dec]* 28
Constitutional Reforms Commission Created *[BARRICADA 11 Dec]* 29

Panama

Arnulfist Party, PRD Reject Possible Alliance *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 11 Dec]* 30
PRD Candidate Not To Reactivate Defense Forces *[LA PRENSA 11 Dec]* 30
Former Papa Egoro Leaders Denounce Blades *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 12 Dec]* 30
Perez Balladares Leading Presidential Race *[LA PRENSA 13 Dec]* 31
National Bank Manager Views Bank's Recovery *[NOTIMEX]* 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem, Alfonsin Sign Constitutional Reform Agreement *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 33
Foreign Minister Di Tella Interviewed *[LA PRENSA 12 Dec]* 33

Brazil

Military Ministers Claim 'There Is No Military Crisis' *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Dec]* 35
'Army Opts for Democracy' *[O GLOBO 10 Dec]* 35
Government Will Overcome Crisis *[O GLOBO 10 Dec]* 36
'Environment of Revolt' Prevails *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Dec]* 36
Low Pay No Cause for 'Insubordination' *[Brasilia Radio]* 36
New Culture Minister Appointed; Franco on Privacy *[Brasilia Radio]* 37
Supreme Court 'Bitterly' Criticized on Collor Case *[O GLOBO 10 Dec]* 37
Central Bank Unifies Trade, Tourism Dollar Exchange Rates *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 37
Escaped Drug Trafficker Abidiel Rabelo Recaptured *[Brasilia Radio]* 38

Chile

Military Authorities Congratulate President-Elect Frei *[Santiago TV]* 38
Latin American Presidents Congratulate Eduardo Frei *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 38
NHK Interviews Frei on Hopes for NAFTA Participation *[Tokyo NHK]* 39
Frei's Possible Ministers Identified *[LA PRENSA 10 Dec]* 39
Same Number of Senators Elected From CPPD, Opposition *[Santiago TV]* 40
2d Army Division 'Ablaze'; Short Circuit Blamed *[Santiago TV]* 40
Two Policemen Wounded in Attack on Barracks *[Madrid EFE]* 40

Colombia

Minister Interviewed on Trade Agreement With Chile *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 40
EPL Movement Not To Participate in 1994 Elections *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 41
Defense Minister To Leave Intensive Care Ward *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 42

Paraguay

Army Commander Gives Speech With 'Political Tone' *[ABC COLOR 13 Dec]* 42

Peru

Chilean Aircraft Violates Airspace; Forced To Land *[Lima Radio]* 43
Returns to Chile *[Lima TV]* 43

Uruguay

Lacalle Confirms He Will Not Run in Elections *[EL PAIS 9 Dec]* 43
Lacalle Holds News Conference in Beijing *[EL PAIS 4 Dec]* 43
Army Unrest Over Reorganization Measures Viewed *[BUSQUEDA 2 Dec]* 45
Member of UN Forces in Mozambique Feared Dead
[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO 8 Dec] 45

Ecuadoran, Costa Rican Presidents Comment in Quito

PA1312131093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 93

[News conference by Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen and Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier with domestic reporters and an unidentified moderator at the president's residence in Quito on 9 December; from "The Voz Andes Newscast"—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Samuel Meza, from Ecuador's Vision program, will ask the first question.

[Meza] Good afternoon, Mr. Presidents. My question is addressed to our distinguished visitor. We are participating in a commercial struggle that has nearly become a fighting front. I am referring to the banana problem. Apparently, the efforts made so far either have been fruitless or all the resources are not being used. Even worse, one gets the impression that those involved in the banana problem are negotiating on their own with European countries. We believe that the Ecuadoran president has considered this problem and that he has proposed solutions, applicable on a short-term basis, to see whether Europe will buy Latin American bananas. What is the true situation?

[Calderon] This struggle is anything but fruitless. Had this struggle been fruitless and had we not waged this battle together, we would not be talking about the subject any longer; in addition, we would have been left with what Europe wanted at the outset: a quota of 1,200,000 tons for all producing countries.

We have followed a procedure and presented a demand to the EEC within GATT. According to GATT procedures, this demand carries a deadline, 15 December 1993, when the GATT panel will have to decide who is right. We have already won a preliminary round regarding the system prevailing in Europe prior to the EEC Commission's decision; this victory has made us very strong and guarantees that Latin American countries will prevail over Europe in this second demand.

Now, demands filed with GATT are not legally binding but carry a great moral obligation. Europe will have to face two unfavorable decisions regarding GATT. We are sure that in the presence of these two decisions and the Uruguay Round of Talks, which are about to close, Europe will have to negotiate with us. As you said, Europe has tried to get Costa Rica and Colombia to negotiate, only with us, our entry into the market, excluding Ecuador, Panama, Guatemala, and Honduras. I reported this move through the international press, and we firmly opposed any arrangement excluding all of the Latin American banana-producing countries. This is Costa Rica's position and the one that President Cesar Gaviria has reiterated again and again.

An agreement cannot include only those of us that are GATT members; the agreement must include all banana-producing countries, and both those in and outside GATT should get the same treatment. This has been our position. Anyway, in a short time, six days, we will have definite news. I will tell you something else, which I mentioned this morning. Suppose we lose; suppose we fail. President Duran Ballen and myself have many things in common. Both he and I have been presidential candidates three times, until we became presidents. We are used to struggling and not giving up. Had we not had a fighting spirit, neither he nor I would be here; you journalists would probably be talking with a different distinguished Ecuadoran citizen and a fellow Costa Rican citizen. We are used to fighting. We can be defeated along the way, but that will not be the end. We will forge ahead until we win. We will win now. If we do not succeed we will keep struggling. You will see that he who perseveres will prevail in the end.

[Duran Ballen] Allow me to say something. You will remember that after I returned from Costa Rica and Mexico—some of you accompanied me on that trip—I reported that I had talked with President Calderon and that he had graciously offered to present our request to GATT on our behalf, because, although we have requested membership, Ecuador has not yet been accepted and, therefore, cannot present the request in its own name. The work of the Costa Rican Government and its president in making Ecuador's problem their own is worth citing. Despite the EEC's offer, which President Calderon mentioned, to deal separately with Colombia and Costa Rica, these two countries and President Calderon made the problem theirs and relinquished a profitable opportunity in favor of the other Latin American countries that are in a predicament that greatly harms Ecuador. I would like to express to President Calderon my government's recognition and the Ecuadoran people's gratefulness for making our problem his problem. As he said, we are sure we will obtain the results we anticipate and that we will eventually join GATT with Costa Rica's help. Until this occurs, however, we will attain our common objectives through the efforts of Costa Rica and Colombia.

[Moderator] Francisco Sanchez of HCJB [expansion unknown].

[Sanchez] Mr. President of Ecuador, do we have problems with the marketing of bananas? It has been impossible for Ecuador to join GATT. [Words indistinct] what will your government do regarding this type of problem? Will it be necessary to take adjustment measures?

[Duran Ballen] We are considering the implications for the country, particularly now that the oil prices have dropped. The economic team has been meeting and will continue to meet. As soon as we have reached some decision on what the country must do, we will report.

[Moderator] We are asking the journalists to restrict their questions to the Costa Rican president's visit. Bernardo Abad from Ecuavision.

[Abad] Mr. Calderon, although you have told us that in six days GATT will make a decision on the banana-producing countries' demands, we would like to know in more detail what will be the implication of this demand being admitted. Will it mean that restrictions will be lifted, that quotas of banana exports to the EEC will be increased? You mentioned yesterday arousing support from other countries; what exactly will this demand imply?

[Calderon] The demand consists of this. We GATT members pointed out to the EEC that the EEC member countries have reached an agreement regarding the banana trade which violates the treaty these countries have signed. We intend to have the GATT panel rule clearly in its decision that the EEC agreement contradicts the treaty they are morally bound to fulfill; this means that small Latin American countries have the powerful European countries up against the wall, so to speak.

The struggle has been difficult. We all agree that everyone's aspiration is a completely free market. We all agree, however, that it is impossible to obtain the best. Realistically speaking, the economies of many Caribbean countries that depend on bananas are at stake; so are the economies of many African countries, French territories, and the Canary, a Spanish province.

We agree that we cannot get the best, but we cannot accept Latin America's current negative situation. All of the banana-producing countries have been flexible and understanding. There has been a consensus to reach a compromise. If we cannot have a completely free market, at least we will not have the current restrictions.

We are after a mechanism we are hoping to negotiate with the EEC next week to substantially raise the price of bananas for us; this would make it possible for each country to make its own internal decisions to sell all of its banana exports, regardless of where it is shipped, at a much more equitable price. For instance, Costa Rica is experienced in selling its coffee, as well as marketing and distributing sugarcane in such a way that all producers get the same price. Of course, I am not familiar with the procedures followed by Ecuador, Colombia, or Honduras, but this would be a problem that each of the countries would have to solve. All of the countries would get a fair share of the EEC quotas. How the countries distribute it among them would depend on the application of each nation's sovereign right.

[Moderator] Patricio Gonzalez of EL TELEGRAFO newspaper.

[Gonzalez] My question is addressed to President Duran-Ballen. Mr. President, has any decision been made regarding support for our country's candidacy for the post of OAS secretary general? Was this one of the subjects you discussed with the Costa Rican president?

[Duran Ballen] This is one of the subjects that was not discussed during President Calderon's visit.

[Calderon] I would like to add that we did not want and do not want to discuss this subject, because it touches on Ecuador's internal policy. We do not want to interfere with Ecuador's internal affairs and do not want this visit to be used for such a purpose. Ecuador will make its decision in March, when the time for the elections comes.

[Moderator] Sanmartin [words indistinct].

[Sanmartin] President Calderon, what about the air transportation memorandum? Does it have to do with the reorganization of the Ecuadoran airline?

[Duran Ballen] We do not understand to whom the two questions were addressed.

[Sanmartin] I addressed the question to President Calderon, but it was for the two presidents, of course.

[Duran Ballen] Because the second part of the question involved the Ecuadoran airline, I thought the question was for me. What we did discuss was the need to increase something we have seen to yield good results in a few weeks of activity. Some of you who accompanied President Calderon at noon to [words indistinct] must have witnessed his meeting with a group of Costa Rican midlevel citizens, tourists who had arrived in Ecuador. This group of tourists spent in Ecuador, bought handicrafts, lodged at hotels and bed and breakfast inns. We have seen the benefit of increased air traffic between the two countries; consequently, we have agreed to grant Lacsa, the Costa Rican airline, one additional weekly flight to Ecuador in exchange for the Ecuadoran airline or Varig, the Brazilian airline in pool with the Ecuadoran airline, having the right to a similar number of weekly flights to Costa Rica.

As required by tourism and trade needs, we will gradually increase the frequency of Ecuadoran flights to Costa Rican flights to Ecuador. Concerning the second part of your question, which deals with the impact of this agreement on the Ecuadoran airline's reorganization, the airline will continue to operate the same number of flights it is currently operating as part of the pool in which it participates.

[Moderator] Gonzalo Solana of ANSA [expansion unknown].

[Solana] Mr. President, apart from the air transport agreement, what other tourism agreements have been struck? The area's officials have talked a lot about this.

[Duran Ballen] We have talked about exchanging experiences and trying for the already successful tourism programs—carried out by Costa Rica in a work not of a few months but of more than 10 years—to fly Canadian,

American, or European tourists in an open-skies policy; this means that, all other factors remaining equal, there can be the highest number of flights between Costa Rica and other countries.

We have talked about the need for the flow of Costa Rican tourists to be directed to Ecuador. We are already doing it, although on a small scale; conversely, Ecuadoran tourists would stop over in Costa Rica on their way back. One of the things that must be considered, however, is that Costa Rica took upon itself the task of stimulating tourism and the presence of foreign corporations of all kinds in the areas of hotels, air transport, restaurants, and others in the country.

Ecuador must be prepared. It is not sufficient to say that 10,000 tourists will arrive. We must have for them adequate facilities. We will do this, here and in any other country of the world, by giving incentives to local and foreign investors in tourism. For this purpose, as you know, my government is drafting a tourism-stimulating bill with the experience of many Latin American countries that have already succeeded, for instance, such as Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and others. Naturally, all of us expect this bill to be discussed properly and passed in the Ecuadoran Congress.

[Moderator] The next question will be asked by journalist Alexis Talavera from EL EXPRESO newspaper, and the last question will be by Mr. Mario Duque representing Notihoy Radio.

[Talavera] Mr. President, although President Calderon has acknowledged his willingness to continue struggling in different economic and social spheres, what position will Ecuador adopt on seeking a project similar to NAFTA recently approved by the U.S. House of Representatives?

[Duran-Ballen] Thank you. Well, as you are well aware, ever since we toured Costa Rica and Mexico, we have suggested joining NAFTA. While in Mexico we discussed related issues with the G-3 which also includes Colombia and Venezuela. In this respect we requested to be taken into account. We believe that associating with the three aforementioned countries will entail an opening leading to NAFTA. Foreign Minister [Diego Paredes] could provide more information on the negotiations that are currently under way through diplomatic channels which, by the way, are the appropriate mechanisms to discuss this type of international relations.

[Paredes] [Words indistinct] simply that the presidents gathered during their last meeting in Santiago, Chile, decided to express their support and their hope to President Clinton that the U.S. Congress ratification, which has not taken place yet, would be positive and as soon as possible. Congratulations have been forwarded to the U.S President and the instrument has been ratified, and today it is currently a legal reality. All our countries celebrate the fact that [words indistinct] of the instruments that includes three nations, is open to negotiations which will allow the gradual entry of other South American states with the objective of taking advantage of this far-reaching free trade zone. The positive and clear orientation by the three North American countries will have splendid repercussions within GATT negotiations and we believe we are headed in the right direction.

[Moderator] The last question is from Mario Duque.

[Duque] President Calderon, please allow me to press on the question of whether Lacsa [Costa Rican Airlines,Inc.] is interested in investing in Ecuadoran Airlines?

[Calderon] Since Lacsa is a private corporation you would have to ask its board of directors who unfortunately are not here today. I am not aware of whether or not they are interested. I would be delighted to see Costa Rican companies investing in Ecuador and Ecuadoran companies investing in Costa Rica in general in all fields. This would undoubtedly draw both countries closer together which is the aspiration all Costa Ricans and Ecuadorans. As I said, Lacsa is a privately owned company and therefore we are not aware of their investment program.

[Moderator] Would the presidents like to add anything?

[Duran-Ballen] I also would like to ask President Calderon something in light of what is being said in Ecuador. There is the presumption that Lacsa is a mixed enterprise, that it belongs to the state, and that what we would be doing is handing over our nationality to a foreign company. I would appreciate it if you would kindly clarify this point.

[Calderon] Mr. President, the Costa Rican State owns only 2 percent of the total number of shares. We have even tried to sell these shares. What really happened was that a few years Lacsa went through a financial crisis which fortunately it was able to overcome and is now in favorable financial position. If we had tried to sell our 2 percent two years ago it would have been like telling all shareholders that the government had no faith in the company. So we decided to keep the shares even if it does not give us any special powers. It is a private company with more or less 50 percent Costa Rican capital, 50 percent Salvadoran capital, and other Central American companies. In addition, 98 percent of Lacsa's employees are Costa Rican nationals.

[Duran-Ballen] I asked this questions precisely because I was aware of what President Calderon just explained, and I wanted to emphasize that Lacsa is a success because it is being managed today as a private corporation. Lacsa was unsuccessful because it was at one time managed like a state corporation. This is why my government is interested in having Ecuatoriana de Aviacion managed as a private corporation. Thank you very much.

[Moderator] The presidents of Ecuador and Costa Rica will immediately proceed to sign the Ecuadoran-Costa Rican Press Declaration.

Cuba

U.S. Legislators Meet With Castro, Alarcon

FL1312190493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a brief and informal meeting with a group of 10 U.S. foreign policy advisors, senators, and congressmen who visited our country in recent days at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Present on the Cuban side were ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon, several deputies, and representatives from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations.

This trip by the group of U.S. legislators was sponsored by the Center for International Policy, an academic institution headquartered in Washington D.C.

Castro: President Clinton Has 'More Open Spirit'

PA1412000293 Paris AFP in Spanish 2120 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Paris, 13 Dec (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro said that U.S. President Bill Clinton has "a more open spirit and a mentality more in line with the U.S. reality and today's world." Castro said this in an interview broadcast in French that reported his statements in Spanish here on 13 December.

Interviewed by French Television Network TF-1 the morning of 12 December in Havana, the Cuban leader said that Bill Clinton is aware of his country. The president reiterated his rejection of any concessions made by his country in light of the U.S. embargo. We will always resist that enormous pressure, he said.

Upon evoking the island's problems after the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the Cuban revolution leader said that "we are not, nor have we ever been, the Soviet Union's children."

Castro refused to speak of a possible resignation and the appointment of a successor. "I am slated by the folk, the comrades, the people, the party. The day they tell me I am no longer useful—believe me—I will not be angry. That day I will be free, something I have not been for 35 years," Castro said, adding that he is not "obsessed with power."

When asked about the 30th anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination, Fidel Castro rejected the thesis of a Cuban plot. "That would have made no sense for us," he said, adding that he is convinced that the U.S. President was the victim "of a conspiracy." The Cuban leader also rendered homage to the assassinated President by calling him "a great adversary."

Robaina Visits Colombia, Meets With Counterpart

Havana Radio Cites News Conference

FL1412033993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] The situation and outlook of Cuba's relations with the United States, Cuba's links with Colombia, changes in Cuba, including changes in Cuba's diplomatic style, were issues broached today in Santa Fe de Bogota by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. The Cuban diplomat and Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin held a news conference following a meeting during which they exchanged documents ratifying bilateral economic and technical- scientific agreements.

Robaina said that Cuba's relations with the United States do not depend on what the current U.S. Administration wants to do but rather on what it can do. Robaina said the U.S. Government is subjected to many pressures, adding that the White House is using less aggressive language.

Asked whether there is an agenda for changes in Cuba, the head of Cuban diplomacy said that the biggest change was made 34 years ago with the triumph of the Revolution; however, this does not mean that there will be no more changes. Regarding the U.S. blockade against the largest Caribbean island, Robaina said that this is a sensitive issue for the Cuban people because of the effects it has on the current problems, although it is not the only cause of the problems. The Cuban foreign minister also mentioned the growing international rejection of the U.S. blockade.

Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin said her country can learn from Cuba in the fields of sports, culture, pharmacology, and what Cuba did to eradicate illiteracy and boost education, among other things.
nfluence

PA1312192693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1745 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today in Santa Fe de Bogota that he "was not surprised" by the overwhelming support the Russian people gave President Boris Yeltsin on Sunday when approving the Russian constitutional bill. "The world today is moved by electoral results," Robaina said on the second day of his visit to Colombia, underscoring that "nothing is surprising anymore."

When speaking of his nation's former primary partner, Robaina said, "we are following to the best of our ability" the unfolding of events in the former USSR. On Sunday members were elected to the two chambers of the Russian parliament and a referendum was held on a new constitution to replace the 1978 charter.

Robaina, who met today with his Colombian counterpart Nohemi Sanin, gave assurances that his country will not attempt to obtain oil from Colombia, as has been speculated, "simply because we do not have the foreign currency with which to purchase it." Robaina revealed that Cuba and Colombia, which resumed diplomatic relations scarcely two months ago, will be signing agreements in the areas of culture, health, and educational cooperation. During his three-day visit, the Cuban official also will meet with Colombian businessmen to encourage them to invest in the island.

Concerning the possible resignation of President Fidel Castro, Robaina gave assurances that even if the controversial commander steps down "his ideas and plans will endure for a long time." He said, "Fidel's presence transcends even his physical existence," adding that the primary concern is to follow up on the overall plan for Cuba.

In reference to the growing number of Cubans leaving the country illegally or refusing to return home, the foreign minister admitted there is a severe economic crisis, but he gave assurances that the government has never prevented anyone who wants to leave from doing so. According to Robaina, the U.S. Administration has failed to fulfill the agreement whereby it would grant a certain number of visas annually, which would permit Cubans wishing to travel to the United States to do so legally. "I believe these illegal departures are being encouraged by the United States and not by us," Robaina said.

Says Castro To Remain President

PA1412031393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2334 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Dec (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said on 13 December that there will be economic changes in Cuba, but on the political side Fidel Castro will remain president. "In case of his demise," his brother Raul, the vice president of the country, could replace him.

Robaina, who arrived in Bogota on 12 December for a three-day official visit to Colombia, said that "the Revolution will continue in Fidel Castro's hands. If he is unable to continue, his brother will take his place. Raul has as much experience as Fidel, and he has won the Cuban people's respect," the Cuban foreign minister said. He warned of the failure of "those who are betting on our disappearing in one or two months." He added that "I believe the worst years are gone, not because we should expect one more or one less event, but because I believe we have outlived all of the deadlines for our existence or demise."

Robaina's visit to Colombia comes shortly after the two countries resumed diplomatic relations. Such relations had been suspended in 1981 when the Colombian Government accused the Cuban Government of training Colombian left-wing guerrillas.

Robaina will meet Colombian President Cesar Gaviria tomorrow. He said that Cuba is in no condition to purchase Colombian crude to solve its energy problems across the island. "Cuba wants Colombian oil; what we do not have is enough foreign currency to purchase it," the Cuban foreign minister said. "Therefore, we can make no business proposals to Colombia for such a transaction." The minister stated that his country has a modern pharmaceutical industry capable of supplying Colombia.

During his stay in Colombia, Robaina and his Colombian colleague, Noemi Sanin de Rubio, will install the bilateral integration commissions that will strengthen the cultural, educational, scientific, and economic relationship. Robaina said that "Cuba does not intend to ask Colombia for anything, except an exchange of each country's wealth." He added that "we are determining the grounds."

Regarding the opening of the Cuban economy to foreign capital, Robaina explained that the islands' administration has "enacted sufficiently flexible and broad legislation that will ensure that nothing and no one is excluded from the process, and that is what we are doing now." He added that there are special conditions to allow international investment "in a great many areas," including oil, pharmaceutics, and tourism, trying to "attract investments to Cuba."

On the political system in Cuba, Robaina said that "the world needs to know more about our democratic system. I am not saying ours is perfect, but I am saying that I do have the right to say that the one they are trying to impose on us is not necessarily perfect either."

The Cuban foreign minister stated that the problems plaguing his country "are not in the thousands. We have limitations by the million. My country is under pressure because we are not allowed to go to closer markets with the little money we have to buy the things we need to provide the people a dignified way of life for our times. I believe that if we were able to guarantee the people's needs in the past, it was basically due to the secure markets we then had." Robaina affirmed, referring to the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Offers Medicines, Vaccines

PA1412040893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 93

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] For the first time in 10 years, a Cuban foreign minister is sitting down at the same table with a Colombian head of state. The host is President Cesar Gaviria, who made a quick flight from the coast to the capital. The guest is Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who came to talk business. Robaina arrived in Colombia unpretentiously. While admitting the island's crisis, he does not want to beg, however.

[Begin Robaina recording] We are in a very difficult and complex situation. The two countries held a stable relationship for a long time, but it deteriorated unexpectedly. We think we are not talking about assistance, rather just trade. [end recording]

In exchange for trade with Colombia, Cuba offers medicines, health, technology, and an opportunity for investing in tourism.

[Begin Robaina recording] We offer a world of medicines, pharmaceutical products, and vaccines. Tourism is also an interesting opportunity. [end recording]

The diplomat, who will stay in Colombia for three days, was loaded with official proposals, which he has started to present.

Cuba-Caricom Joint Commission To Be Signed 13 Dec

FL1112022393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] The creation of the Cuba-Caribbean Common Market [Caricom] Joint Commission, which will be signed on Monday, 13 December, will consolidate our country's ties with its geographic region and will create conditions for progress, according to Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi. Before leaving for Georgetown, Guyana, this evening, Sanchez Parodi said that the agreement with the English-speaking Caribbean community will open the doors to a more systematic and efficient cooperation at a bilateral and multilateral level between Cuba and the three Caricom member states. The areas of cooperation included in the agreement that will be signed on Monday include: biotechnology, cattle, fishery, sugarcane and related products, steel, minerals, pharmaceuticals industry, and tourism.

Cuba's inclusion in the Caricom mechanisms represents the beginning of a regional integration process which will conclude next year with the creation of the Caribbean States Association. Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia will be included in this association, which will form a group for economic cooperation and intergovernmental unity.

Initial Issues Listed

FL1312004393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1943 GMT 12 Dec 93

[By Rickey Singh]

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 12, CANA—The 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) and Cuba take a symbolic step towards closer relations on Monday with the inauguration of a joint commission that identifies 24 priority areas for mutual cooperation.

The ceremonial signing of the agreement at the Caricom Secretariat in Georgetown, the Guyana capital, brings into force a decision of the 13th Caricom Heads of Government Summit, held in June 1992 in Port-of-Spain, the Trinidad capital.

A 11-member Cuban delegation, headed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabresas Ruiz, was scheduled to arrive in Georgetown on Sunday to take part in the ceremony at which Cabresas will sign for Cuba, and Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington for Caricom.

The commission, criticised by some U.S. lawmakers, seeks to foster "co-operative relations" between Caricom and Cuba whose increasingly liberalised market is attracting growing trade and private investments from countries of the European Union and Canada.

The terms of the accord, as approved at last July's Caricom summit in the Bahamas, calls for the promotion of relations in economic, social, cultural and technological fields.

"We are pleased that we have finally reached the stage for the signing of the accord," Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington told CANA on Sunday. "It climaxes the latest in a series of initiatives by Caricom to reach out to our Caribbean and Latin American neighbours, our brothers and sisters, to act together in our mutual interests," he added.

Major areas for cooperation to be discussed at the inaugural meeting of the commission following the signing of the agreement, include trade, culture, biotechnology, livestock, fisheries, sugarcane, and human resources development. Cooperation in the field of biotechnology embraces overall research capability and agricultural and medical applications.

Cattle production, breeding systems and the utilisation of sugarcane, molasses and bagasse, fall within the context of the livestock sector.

Fisheries cooperation cover aquaculture, lobster rearing, fish processing and fisheries management, fisheries extension systems and fisheries publications of a scientific and general nature, as well as crocodile anf frog farming.

Improvement of yields per acre is one of the areas to be considered in cooperation in sugarcane, as well as an increase in the range of products from sugar and the sugarcane plant.

Trade information linkages have been identified as a priority area under "trade." Cultural exchanges and cultural policies are at the centre of the bid to foster cultural relations between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Trade

FL1312225393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 13 Dec 93

[By Colin King]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 13, CANA—Cuba and the English-speaking Carbbean Community (Caricom) stepped up a bid for closer links Monday, launching a joint commission to identify cooperation opportunities and mechanisms and timeframes for action. Cuban External Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz and Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington signed the commission into being at a ceremony, witnessed by representatives of various Caricom governments and top private sector representatives.

Cuba first entered diplomatic relations with English-speaking Caribbean states in 1972, but exchanges fluctuated until 1991 when Caricom leaders sent a technical mission to the island, paving the way for further contacts and the joint commission launched Monday. Both sides have cast the commission as step towards an eventual wider Caribbean union.

At the launching, Cabrisas showcased opportunities for Caricom in a Cuba now pursuing commerce and investment with various countries in response to the United States embargo on the island. He made no reference to concerns in parts of the U.S. Congress that Caricom as U.S. aid beneficiaries were cementing economic links with Cuba.

But Cuba's ambassador to the Caribbean Lazaro Cabezas Gonzalez told CANA his country wanted normal trade and other relations with Caricom countries, to which it has extended scholarships and other help. "It doesn't mean that we are looking to receive from the Caribben aid, or gifts, as people are thinking," the ambassador said. "We want to have a normal relationship—trade relations, tourism relations. Collaboration on international transportation—it's not a question of aid."

Cabrisas threw out a frank invitation to Caricom investors and commercial interests. "Our economic and commercial space resulting from this opening is being occupied by capital and markets of diverse origin, and we would not like the Caribbean to arrive too late... We invite you not to waste this opportunity to link ourselves more closely and create better conditions with a view towards a future economic integration of the caribbean," Cabrisas said. "The advances which we are able to achieve today will facilitate integration tomorrow," the Cuban minister added, referring to the proposed wider Caribbean union.

Caricom Secretary General Carrington billed the commission's launch a step towards the association of Caribbean states, "a Caricom proposal which constitutes perhaps the boldest and most important initiative on the part of our region in recent times".

Carrington singled out the Caricom private sector as a major player in the relationship evolving with Cuba as well as other Cairbbean and Latin American states. "I take this opportunity to urge the private sector...to intensify its efforts to participate in these regional cooperation endeavours whether in relation to the present case of Cuba... or any of the countries with which (Caricom) decides to establish relations of co-operation.

"...In the context of today's transformed international economic environment, the integration of our countries and territories requires the integration of private sector mechanisms and practices."

President of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) Yesu Persaud told CANA after the launch the private sector is in tune with the move towards wider Caribbean integration. "This whole concept of the association of Caribbean states is a step in the right direction... The private sector is very involved and many members of the Caricom private sector are already moving in that direction," Persaud said.

Setting out his views on the evolving Cuba-Caricom relationship, Cabrisas said the commission's priorities should include investment promotion, development of trade in goods and services, stimulation of scientific and cultural cooperation, and promoting consultation to "support a greater negotiating power in our foreign affairs".

Referring to investment opportunities for Caricom under Cuba's "open and flexible" investment policy, Cabrisas identified tourism as the most dynamic sector, with opportunities which Jamaican investors have already targetted. "It is precisely in this sector...that there is room for many joint initiatives between Cuba and the Caricom countries, taking into account the very great interest of the Caribbean in this sector."

Citing development plans which contemplate Cuba's tourism receiving a million tourists in 1995 and in the long run more than 10 million, Cabrisas said "the only way of dealing wth this reality in the Caribbean is to make ourselves partners and promote our common interest in this sector". In this way, he suggested, progress of some is not at the expense of others and will be progress for all.

The minister also spelled out some of Cuba's attractiveness as a partner in trade, citing its buying power in the short run of about two billion dollars annually, a population almost double that of Caricom, and tariff rates which average 11.3 per cent. "...The perspectives for commercial relations between Cuba and the Caricom countries are even greater for the not too distant future, due to the continued expansion of the economies of the member states (of Caricom) and the economic recovery of our country," he said. "We should remember that in the 1980s our foreign commerce reached nearly 15 billion dollars, a figure similar to that of the current combined commercial exchange of the 13 Caricom countries," Cabrisas added.

Identifying Cuba's current exports to Caricom as mainly steel bars, cement, citrus fruits, salt, tobacco and sea food, the minister said there is ever greater potential in equipment, parts and accessories for the sugar industry, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment. He

also urged priority consideration for cooperation in the area of air and maritime transportation, financial and communications services and technical and cultural cooperation.

He singled out tourism and marketing as two areas where Caricom "has much to teach us" and science and technology as areas where Cuba has had considerable development which it would like to share with Caricom.

Cuban Official Visits Paraguay; Seeks Exchange

PY1312182493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Dec 93 p 9

[Text] Elva Suarez, a member of the Cuban Friendship with the Peoples Institute (ICAP), has said that the Cuban people have always been integrated into Latin America regardless of regional governments and despite the U.S. blockade. Suarez is visiting our country to promote an Ibero-American meeting in that Caribbean island. She said that the U.S. economic blockade caused losses to the island worth millions of dollars.

"Cuba always wanted to be integrated into Latin America. At the start of the revolution there was a wave of severing of relations involving all countries except for Mexico. This situation prevented us from becoming integrated into Latin America."

Suarez said Latin American peoples "never broke relations with us because, one way or another, they always tried to keep contact with Cuba to see what was happening and to learn of our reality. People-to-people links were never interrupted despite the different governments and the U.S. blockade."

Suarez said that the United States carried out a slander campaign through large multinational information companies. "Cuba's answer to that disinformation was to invite people to the island to see the country. The only thing we ask is honesty. We want them to say what they saw when they return to their countries. That is the only thing we ask."

"We want respect. We do not ask anyone to believe in what we believe. We simply ask for respect for our sovereignty as an independent people and, above all, respect for our self-determination." Suarez said the U.S. blockade has cost her country $40 billion in loses, which is an indication of its impact.

"At the beginning we did not feel the effects of the U.S. blockade that much. Now with the downfall of the socialist camp we are feeling the effects of the U.S. attitude more acutely."

Suarez said the "backward" [retardatarios] blockade policy imposed by the U.S. is an attempt to prevent all relations with Cuba. "The United States tries to fence off any Cuban attempt to establish better relations with other countries through the blockade or by blackmailing the other countries."

Suarez said an exchange with our country could be very beneficial for our two peoples. "We can offer Paraguay our scientific progress in the field of medicine or graduate courses for students seeking to improve their knowledge. Paraguay can offer us its products and its progress."

Suarez said that Cuba will not renounce the socialist model which was conquered through the people's revolution. She added, however, that the country is introducing changes in its internal economic structure.

Sports Agreement Signed With Mexico

PA1312040893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1726 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Text] Havana, 11 Dec (EFE)—The 11 December edition of "GRANMA," the official newspaper, disclosed today that Cuba and Mexico had recently signed the most comprehensive and largest sports agreement that either country has ever signed with any other.

The agreement, which was signed by Raul Gonzalez, president of the Mexican National Sports Commission (Conade), and Reinaldo Gonzalez, first vice president of the Cuban National Sports, Physical Education and Recreation Institute (Inder), specifies that a total of 231 Cuban sports specialists including trainers, physicians, and sports specialists will be working in more than 30 Mexican states.

The "GRANMA" report adds that the agreement establishes that 180 of those sports experts will cooperate with the athletic talent development program, others will be involved in the sports applied medical science center, and the rest will be involved with the National Trainers School.

Ciro Perez, Inder's foreign relations department chief, stated in Havana that the 1993 agreement included 193 sports specialists whose work made it possible to accrue more than one million dollars earmarked to finance Cuban sports.

"This is Cuba's most comprehensive and wide-ranging project because we believe we are obligated to pass on to Mexico whatever long or short step we may accomplish in sports as a result of the historical, friendly relationship between both nations," Inder's first vice president stated.

Raul Gonzalez said, however, that the Mexican Government, and sports in particular, will be eternally grateful for this cooperation and for future results through the national sports talent program.

Cuba has more than 400 sports specialists in 34 countries of America, Europe and Asia. Most of these experts are in Mexico, Italy, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador.

Zambian Sports Minister Arrives in Havana

FL1212214193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Dipak Patel, Zambian youth, sports and child development minister, has arrived in Havana heading a delegation that includes the Youth and Child Development president, the head of the Olympic Committee, and other sports authorities. The distinguished visitor stressed the importance of this, his first trip to the island, where he hopes to meet with Cuban sports, physical education, and recreation authorities and to hear about Cuba's experiences with children and youths and in sports equipment production. Dipak Patel said that the sports relations between Cuba and Zambia will be expanded through cooperation agreements that will be signed by the sports authorities of the two countries. Dipak Patel added: We hope Cuban trainers will help us develop in the field of sports so that we may hope to achieve the same results you have obtained in this field.

Sports Agreements With Dominican Republic Pending

FL0912151693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Dec 93

[Text] Cuban Deputy Sergio Pastrana has made a visit to Elias Wessin Chavez, the Dominican Republic's secretary of state of sports, physical education, and recreation, to discuss the concrete details of a possible exchange of athletes and trainers between the two countries. Both agreed that accords benefiting the athletes of both nations will be reached soon.

Athlete Seeks Asylum in United States

FL1312232293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2247 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 13, CANA—A Cuban athlete Monday was seeking political asylum in the United States after arriving at the Grantley Adams International Airport, officials confirmed.

The officials told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY the unidentified man arrived Monday on a Cubana airways flight from Brazil, and refused to get back on. The plane later left the country. The officials said he was an athlete who participated in the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) games in Puerto Rico. Several of his compatriots sought asylum in the U.S. while they were at the games last month.

Officials from the immigration department and the Ministry of Home Affairs refused to comment on what they plan to do with the asylum-seeker. U.S. Embassy officials in Bridgetown could not be reached for comment.

Agriculture Minister: Subsidies To Be Lowered

FL1312194193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Agriculture in Cuba is undergoing profound changes, which should help Cuba achieve a greater food production and very much needed cost efficiency. The intent to reduce subsidies is among issues under discussion. This information was recently announced by Politburo member Alfredo Jordan Morales, minister of agriculture:

[Begin recording] What we are trying to do is take an enterprise that had 3 or 4 million [unit not specified] in losses or subsidies in 1993 and evaluate where those expenses went to [words indistinct]. We need to see how we can lower those subsidies in 1994, despite the difficult conditions of the special period. I say to you that the most important thing is organization. [end recording]

EFE Report on Honduran Relations Cited

FL1312232793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] EFE has commented that the assumption that Honduran President-Elect Carlos Roberto Reina was planning to invite Cuban President Fidel Castro to his swearing-in ceremony on 27 January has created some controversy regarding the future of relations between the two countries. Most of the local political analysts believe Reina may be the president who will be responsible for normalizing bilateral ties, thus fulfilling his campaign promise to promote a broad and nondiscriminatory foreign policy. However, should Reina decide to improve relations with Cuba, the Liberals would not be starting from zero because contacts in this regard began back in 1990 when Rafael Callejas assumed power.

The analysts, however, believe that the most important move did not come from the government but from the business sector, when Honduran magnate Miguel Facusse negotiated the right to plant 20,000 hectares of Cuban land with African palm. EFE continues by stating that despite the bilateral progress achieved, the reestablishment of relations with Cuba continues to be an important political decision for Honduras, a country that strongly depends on Washington.

Emigres' Deaths on Way to U.S. Assessed

FL1312220793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[TRABAJADORES 13 December editorial]

[Text] International press agencies reported that on 5 December a 16-month-old infant named Claudia Lazo Perez died at sea in a raft in which the adults who transported her was lost at sea for 10 days while attempting to reach Florida. In the same manner, on 7 December a Cuban child named Diosmel Reyes, who was a year old, died from irreparable damage to his

kidneys from having been given salt water to drink during the 14 days in which his family was lost at sea on board a homemade raft.

It is not our intention to name names or to use adjectives, which are probably well deserved, to define the monstrous irresponsibility of the two children's relatives, an irresponsibility that brought these two children to their death. The burden of guilt will always fall on their consciences and they will probably never be able to rid themselves of this guilt for the rest of their lives.

In our country these children had a secure future. It is possible that they may have never obtained the luxuries that dazzle the societies of consumption, but they would have never lacked education, health care, basic needs, or a honorable profession. They would not have died of curable sicknesses, common in many places of the world, because they would have received vaccinations and they would have never gotten lost in the world of drugs or be within reach of murderers and traffickers of body parts, those who thrive at the expense of poverty in the lands of America.

These two lives, which were cut off before they had hardly begun, are like two rose buds that were criminally pulled from the heart of our people, the same people who will do anything and overcome everything precisely for the present and future of their children.

The enemies in Miami will probably take advantage of the inanimate bodies of these two children to advance their political cause because there are some people who have no sense of decency or respect for another person's suffering. Even in the hour of greatest disgrace they assume their part as birds of prey during natural disasters.

Why do the counterrevolutionary organizations in Florida not use their economic power to demand that the United States allow any Cuban citizen who so desires to immigrate freely into that country. Why do they not denounce and demand an end to that hypocritical and opportunist immigration policy that stimulates illegal departures while it delays and restricts normal visa procedures. Could it be that the arrival of lifeless children is much more economically and politically advantageous to the foundations and the rest of the stateless organizations in Miami than for children to arrive safely and worry free on board an airplane accompanied by their parents who wish to leave.

U.S. authorities, their immigration policy and their brutal blockade, must take responsibility for events like these. It is no secret that the essential motive for those who intend to emigrate to the United States is economic. The immense majority of those people who wish to go to that country today did not think that way just 4 years ago, prior to the special period.

Today they are motivated by the shortages we face, which would be fewer and easier to overcome if that constant and sickening persecution did not exist against all commercial and business transactions Cuba tries to establish. It also is no secret that those people represent a minority in comparison to the rest of the Cuban population.

While we are on the subject of the blockade and economic difficulties, it would be worth stating that no one should be fooled or confuse causes with effects. The blockade has not forced us to make changes; it has been of our own will and the need to insert ourselves into a world which reality has changed. The economic transformations that the Revolution makes are precisely to save that Revolution, to confront and overcome the blockade, to develop ourselves and to improve the life of our people—and not in exchange for the lifting of the blockade.

The Revolution cannot trust its existence on hopes but on the unity, will, and determination of its heroic people, who would rather die than to once again become a foreign colony with a national anthem, but lacking independence.

On the other hand, never throughout its history has Cuba begged for anything, neither from friends nor enemies. The only occasion in which the Cuban patriots asked something from the United States was when our ancestors requested the recognition of belligerency in the just fight they fought against Spain. The response is well known to all. It came with U.S. battleships and gunboats, which deprived us of the triumph that for 30 years we had struggled and sacrificed so much for.

Today Cuba does not beg for the end of the blockade, for the withdrawal from the Guantanamo Naval Base, nor for the end of a dual immigration policy that has cost so many lives. Cuba demands it! We learned long ago that rights are not begged for and that in the long run principles are much more powerful than all the weapons and all the difficulties.

It is precisely because of this that we are still here, despite the constant Yankee harassment. We will always defend our sovereign right to choose our own path and struggle so that the tens of thousands of Claudias and Diosmels, who bring joy into our lives today, do not lose their lives in the turbulent seas of irresponsibility and the unfair and criminal policies, because, to us, nothing has greater value than a child's smile.

Havana City Sets Guidelines for Self-Employed

FL1312233893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The Havana City Provincial Council has adopted specific guidelines for the self-employed in Havana. The guidelines contain the types of business that may be established, areas and empty lots that may be used, as well as areas where these businesses will concentrate. Likewise, the guidelines establish restrictions for the self-employed. No businesses will be located across from or near day care centers, schools, funeral parlors, health

facilities, cemeteries, monuments, museums, or cultural centers. The ban also applies to areas near hotels and tourist centers, military zones, protocol areas, and areas where embassies are located.

The guidelines add that, for the time being, no more permits will be issued for the following activities: food stands, pickers and sellers of agricultural products, producers of milk products, collectors of raw material, and taxi drivers [choferes de alquiler]. The Havana City Provincial Council stated that the permits issued to date will continue to be honored and that the authorized taxi drivers may not offer their services at airports, hotels, and other tourist installations.

Regarding food stands in Havana, only the following products may be prepared and sold: hot beverages [infusiones], natural fruit juices, peeled or sliced fruit, frozen fruit juice [duros frios], shaved ice, varied homemade pastries made of fruits, vegetables, or tubers; shelled or candied peanuts, peanut nougat, as well as candied sesame seeds and sesame seed nougat. The list also includes popcorn, tamales, tubers prepared in various forms, pasta and croquettes made from tubers or vegetables, patties prepared with sugar and honey, patties made from tubers, grains, and vegetables, fritters, doughnuts, and sweet potato patties, and fruit yogurt.

The Provincial Council also advised all self-employed who had registered before Decree 141 was implemented that 31 December is the established deadline to register.

Commentary Notes U.S. Academic's 'Tacit' Messages

FL0912194393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Dec 93

["Reflections" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] As you know, there is a seminar—call it a meeting, if you prefer—between EC and Cuban legislators, academics, and experts that is also being attended by other prominent figures from different areas. The seminar began on 6 December. Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the Council of Ministers; Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina; and Minister of Finance Jose Luis Rodriguez [title as heard], to name a few of the prominent figures, have already addressed the group, speaking for Cuba.

This seminar, organized by Cuba's Center for European Studies and Spain's Institute for European-Latin American Relations, IRELA, is being held under the auspices of the European Commission, and over 20 European Parliament deputies of varying political persuasions and affiliations are participating.

I would like to highlight an assessment that I deem worthy of consideration, although people may disagree as to the figure put forth. Speaking before the seminar, U.S. academic (Andrew Zimbalist) said that if the blockade—or embargo, as it is called in the United States—were to be lifted, trade between our country and our neighbor nation to the north could reach some $6 billion. The U.S. academic, who works at Smith College, in Northampton, [Massachusetts], United States, said that within his country's current administration—that is, the Clinton administration—there are officials who oppose the blockade.

Without going into details of quantity, it seems to me that this statement tacitly gave at least two messages: one, the total obsolescence of the blockade; and, second, that that measure, which has been maintained over more than 30 years, is causing serious prejudice to Cuba, but also deprives U.S. entrepreneurs—and therefore firms—of potential profits derived from an activity as legitimate and ancient as trade between nations, in this case between two neighboring countries.

It is obvious that today there are many more people who are sensible, independently of their political ideas or ideological assumptions, and who think that the blockade against Cuba is an absurd anachronism that benefits no one but causes damage to all, especially to a people who accept no one's guardianship or impositions because international law so stipulates; and, above all, because that is what its history and its aspiration to liberty and justice dictate.

Labor Courts Performance Under Evaluation

FL1012183693 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Talk by Dr. Haydee Quintana, featured in Friday section "About the Labor Courts"]

[Text] As I have told you, right now the first year's results of generalization, nationwide, of the experience of grass roots labor courts are being evaluated. Both the courts' achievements and deficiencies are being analyzed. Today, I will talk to you about one of those deficiencies, which consists of the poor performance of certain management teams. This is worrisome because it has been observed, to a greater or lesser degree, in all provinces.

Not all management teams are complying with the legislation in force concerning labor justice. In order to give you an idea, I will point out the most common violations to you. In the documents imposing disciplinary measures, decisions are based on legal dispositions, the application of which is suspended during the experience. The type of violation of discipline attributed to the worker is not adequately indicated. Nor are the incidents attributed to the worker described in detail, much less assessments expressed.

Also, certain management teams violate what has been established in the legislation—in Decree Law No. 132 of April 1992—by applying the most benign measure, public warning, to the most serious acts of indiscipline, such as those that can constitute a crime: the removal, appropriation, or loss of property belonging to a work center, which Decree Law No. 132 expressly prohibits.

What is going on with those management teams? Why did the municipal food services enterprise of Cotorro Municipality, Havana City Province, issue 32 public warnings for violations that could constitute crimes? And why did the State Collection Enterprise of Cotorro Municipality also issue 12 public warnings for loss, removal, or diversion of property belonging to the work center? Why did Santiago de Cuba management teams apply, in approximately 27 percent of all cases, the least severe measures for conduct that could constitute crimes?

And we could give examples of that same phenomenon in each of the nation's provinces, a phenomenon that goes against the legislation in force. Why do certain management teams fail to apply what has been legislated so as to combat labor indiscipline? It should be kept in mind that the management team is responsible for discipline at the work center. Management teams should use the legal instruments available to them for better labor discipline. The legislation is there. Apply it properly.

That is all for today. Thank you for your attention. I invite you to continue talking about labor courts next Friday.

Russian Elections, Political Changes Viewed

FL1012174193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 10 Dec 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] I believe that on other occasions I have stated that the logic of political events has nothing to do whatsoever with classical logic and that what might seem illogical is not so when we see its results.

In Russia, the power struggle between the Legislative and the Executive Branches to implement a market economy in Russia resulted in the illogical events of 4 October: in other words, in the shelling of the parliament building, the arrest of the main leaders of the opposition against Yeltsin, such has Khasbulatov and Rutskoy; the dissolution of the parliament; and a call for early elections.

The parliamentary elections will be held on 12 December to elect the 450 members of the Duma, or lower house, and the 178 legislators of the Federation Council, or upper house. Thirteen different parties are vying for these seats. According to the latest polls, Gaydar's so-called Russian Choice Party will obtain the highest number of seats, followed by the Yavlinskiy Boldyrev Lukin, these two organizations support President Boris Yeltsin. They are followed in the polls by the Communist Party with 13 percent of the possible votes, the same as the Unity and Consensus Party and the Democratic Party.

The polls show that Yelstin's supporters will have a majority in both houses. This will allow the Russian president to rule without the restraint of the former legislative power. However, in this election the 108 million Russian voters will vote on a Constitution bill with a clear presidential bias, which in practice turns parliament not into a decorative figure but a secondary element of government. Thus, what was illogical no longer seems so.

This Constitution replaces the previous one promulgated in 1978 to which over 2,000 amendments were made as result of the changes that took place in the former USSR and its disappearance. It continued to be completely inappropriate for the new circumstances however.

The new Constitution, whose text was published on 9 December, puts the presidency above all other state bodies. If the Russian citizens approve it, Russia will have a political system with a chief of state with broad powers to issue decrees. The president, with the approval of the parliament, will name a premier, preside over governmental sessions, and remove ministers. Likewise, the president will control the emissions of the Central Bank, recommend members of the Supreme Court to the parliament, decide on war and be the chief of the Armed Forces, and implement emergency measures with the only obligation being to inform parliament. The president can be impeached only if he commits high treason or a serious crime, and this will be decided by the Duma following a complex set of procedures. In addition, the Russian parliament will have an almost exclusive legislative function and the presidency has the prerogative to propose its own initiatives or halt the parliament's initiatives. What was illogical no longer seems so.

On 4 October 1993, a period ended and another began. This new period will be characterized by reforms which will open the way for a market economy and a bourgeoise democracy. To transpose concepts of developed bourgeoise democracies to a country whose history, traditions, and idiosyncrasies are different require a transition period to reeducate the rulers and people. Therefore, the logical thing is to have a strong, presidential government capable of implementing the changes needed. What was illogical is no longer so.

Government Requests Extradiction of Two Bolivians

FL1012194193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Dec 93

[Text] The Government of Cuba has requested through the Bolivian Embassy the extradition of Deputy Luis Vasquez Villamor and political leader Marco Antonio Oviedo, accused of homicide by Matanzas' judicial bodies. In July 1990, both men, driving while intoxicated, ran over a young woman, who they left on the road. She died from the lack of medical treatment. Despite the lack of an extradition accord between Cuba and Bolivia, it is possible to obtain extradition through the international law that allows for the pursuit and sanction of criminals worldwide without need of bilateral accords.

La Paz media reported that the extradition request was made by Cuba shortly after the crime but the government, then ruled by the political organization to which both men belong, covered up the fact and tried enure that it would be forgotten.

National Defense School Holds Graduation

FL1212225193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] The third graduation of the National Defense School of the General Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Academy has concluded. The graduation was presided over by Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, deputy FAR minister, and Division General Nestor Lopez Cuba, chief of the FAR political directorate.

On this occasion a group of graduates was promoted to the rank of reserve officers; others received Production and Defense Combatant medals and the Ready for Defense award in the war of all the people. Carmen Diaz of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [words indistinct] of the new kind that prepares them to confront the difficult times Cuba is experiencing.

[Begin recording] [Lieutenant Colonel Josue Ortiz, identified by caption] It allows us to have a much more general vision of the extraordinarily complex situation the world, and particularly Cuba, is living. It also allows us to focus on possible solutions and on the need for solutions to the diverse problems that will surely make it possible to overcome the special period. [end recording]

The goal of the National Defense School is to train civilian and military cadres in the problems of defense in all its aspects, political, economical, [words indistinct]. The year-long course is taken by comrades selected by the Communist Party of Cuba, government, mass organization, state entities, the FAR, and the Interior Ministry.

The fourth course of the National Defense School will begin in January.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 7-10 Dec

FL1012155293

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 7 and 10 December.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 7 December reports that the results of a detailed analysis announced to the press yesterday shows that the recent heavy rains in Guantanamo Province in November caused material damages of over 112.2 million pesos.

Radio Reloj at 2047 GMT on 6 December reports that direct Italy-Camaguey flights began between Milan and Varadero with the arrival of a Boeing 767 of the Austrian airline Lauda that brought tourists to Santa Lucia beach. The flights will take place once a week.

Cuba Vision Network at 0100 GMT on 6 December reports that Cubans and Canadians are working together to increase oil production in Matanzas. Canadian Northwest is working 36 oil wells in Varadero Oil Field, the largest in the country, and other wells in the northern sector of Matanzas Province.

Cuba Vision Network at 0100 GMT on 6 December states that there are only three municipalities in Pinar del Rio Province where potatoes are grown. The report adds that 51 caballerias of potato will be planted in San Cristobal, Los Palacios, and Consolacion del Sur Municipalities. The growers plan to increase their crop by 3,000 quintales per caballeria.

Radio Reloj at 2033 GMT on 7 December says that 40 nonsugarcane Basic Cooperative Production Units are now operating in Matanzas Province. Eighteen of these units have been assigned to the potato sector and will responsible for planting 128 caballerias.

Radio Reloj at 2041 GMT on 7 December reports on the opening of a restaurant at Coba Rubia Beach in Las Tunas. Built at a cost of 500 million pesos, it is for international tourists and can seat 140.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 8 December reports that the national economy will benefit from the use of Cuban oil in making hot asphalt concrete [hormigon asfaltico caliente], which means a savings in fuel and electricity that could come to tens of millions of pesos and hard currency. A new technique for making this mixture was developed by technicians at Matanzas Engineering Works Construction Enterprise No. 7. Because Cuban oil has been used in this way with highly satisfactory results, it will now be used whenever possible.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0100 GMT on 9 December report that the UBPC's in Ciego de Avila are preparing for the coming harvest. The Minaz directorate in the province has set the goal of planting as many sugarcane shoots as possible by 31 December.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 9 December reports that mobilized workers and students in Guantanamo are participating in recovery efforts, focusing their efforts on gathering coffee beans that fell to the ground during the storm. They have recovered 1,500 measures [latas] of coffee representing approximately $15,000.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 9 December reports that a solidarity group from South Africa donated medicine and $2,000, part of which was delivered tonight in Havana.

Radio Progreso at 1200 GMT on 9 December reports that Cuba's hydrotherapy company and the French chain of 15 thermal spas, Sun Hydrotherapy, are collaborating in the thermal industry.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 9 December reports that the tuber and vegetable planting campaign is behind schedule, therefore a major push is needed to guarantee the harvest in the first half of 1994. The difficulties stem from adverse weather and fuel shortages, which have caused delays in soil preparation. By the end of November, 6,633 caballerias of miscellaneous crops should have been planted, but with the exception of Las Tunas Province, most are far behind.

Rebelde adds that the potato campaign entails 1,144 caballerias of which only 100 have been planted by the end of November and December's planting campaign entails more than 3,000 caballerias in addition to the delays accumulated. Thus, a stringent organization of the labor force and resources is required in order to meet these goals.

Havana Radio Reloj at 2058 on 9 December reports that the Doctors of the World nongovernmental organization and a Spanish solidarity organization sent a donation to Cuba that consists of medicine and vitamins.

Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 10 December reports that the citrus plant in Cubitas, which operates with mixed Cuban-Greek investments, remains the most efficient citrus plant in the country. The plant has benefited from technological upgrades which administrators hope will increase production. The plant has the capability to produce 90 metric tons per day. More than 1,500 metric tons of grapefruit have been exported since 5 November when the harvest season began.

Cuba Vision at 0100 GMT on 10 December reports that the Japanese Red Cross donated tires and spare parts to the Cuban Red Cross for the repair of ambulances throughout the country.

Radio Rebelde at 1000 GMT on 10 December comments that "the devotion of workers, residents of rural areas, and Youth Labor Army soldiers is fundamental, in order to conclude the year with a positive balance in the national cold-season miscellaneous crops planting campaign." Also, Rebelde notes that regular workers and mobilized workers from the Cuban Workers Federation and from schools have harvested 580,000 measures of coffee in the mountains of Holguin, "thereby exceeding 90 percent of the plan for the current campaign."

* Rationale for Private Property Explained

94CA0046B Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 8 Nov 93 p 2

[Commentary by Renato Recio]

[Text] Established down through the centuries by the dominant cultures, tirelessly cultivated and reseeded by the propaganda machinery of capitalism in all its phases, two dogmas lie at the very root of contemporary ideological debate: the alleged impeccable efficiency of capitalist enterprise and the irremediable inefficiency of economic management existing on the fringe of private ownership of the means of production.

Without taking the specific conditions of time and place into account and while generalizing only the good on one side and only the bad on the other, an entire edifice of falsehoods has been built for which they is no dearth of obstinate acolytes. Some cling to the dogma out of sheer convenience, while others are caught in webs of manipulation, disinformation, and naivete.

In Cuba, even after many years of the socialist revolution and throughout its entire history, the debate has continued. Indeed, for any one of the three reasons cited, there are still those who seek refuge behind the belief that only "the master's eye fattens the horse," unwilling to concede that under any circumstances, social property can generate the same quota of zeal and passionate dedication that private interests devote to their own business.

However, this does not mean that Cuban economic culture and the national consensus on the subject are prisoners of the dogmas in question. After all, there are arguments in excess to refute the premise that denies state management any redeeming qualities while conferring on private enterprise the gift of infallibility.

Nevertheless, even after naming itself the all-out winner over the socialist option, the capitalist system cannot fail to recognize that after being in existence for several centuries, it has produced only a small group of truly developed countries that flaunt world leadership and that, economically speaking, have taken up a position on a pinnacle that is far removed— scandalously far removed—from the development of nearly 200 nations that find themselves in their orbit.

In addition, the process of the desocialization of property that has occurred in recent years in the former socialist countries, and the denationalization that is taking place in nations on the continent has not justified—in even the slightest degree—the virtues attributed to privatization. Moreover, it has as a general rule accentuated conflicts between production and consumption, while spreading and deepening social evils, promoting national division, and robbing from many of these countries their very prestige and sovereignty.

While the persistence of the majority of the Cuban people and their leaders in rejecting a market economy and private property for our country is indeed based on real, concrete experience of what capitalism and socialism have meant for Cuba, it is nevertheless not based on the belief that the state administrative structures and system of management achieved before the Special Period fully met the parameters of efficiency that are both desirable and necessary.

Starting with the process of rectifying errors, which began in 1986 and subjected numerous aspects of economic practice to criticism, and continuing up until the present time, when the socialist economy must be

adapted to new world conditions, an expectation of change and transformation has been promoted in society, born of trust in the perfectibility of the system. After all, the majority of the Cuban people realize that there are no immutable causes that pave the way for error and economic inefficiency, as the capitalist propaganda is wont to claim, being, as it is, a staunch enemy of any form of government ownership and social property.

Even if one removes the ideological core of the issue, one must point out that the economic development of any country nowadays presumes a massive mobilization of human and financial resources. Technically speaking, underdeveloped countries that are normally far from achieving the necessary levels of the accumulation and concentration of capital have no possibility of development based on their scattered privately-owned national capital.

Seen from this perspective, which has been demonstrated over and over by the failed attempts of many countries that have fought to industrialize and develop without their private business sectors having the capacity to do so, it would be truly outrageous if Cuba were to give up the advantages of its state monopoly over the economy rather than to try to improve it.

However paradoxical it may seem, such improvement is accompanied by the growing presence of foreign capital in partnership with government-owned business. Nor does it exclude the possibility that certain economic activities can function on the basis of private property.

The socialist state and only the socialist state can guarantee the permanence and promotion of the principles of social justice, solidarity, independence, and equality of opportunity that form the Cuban people's conscience.

All of this explains the unwavering national strategy of guaranteeing the predominance of government-owned property and the planned economy even under the current and future circumstances.

The fact is, as many recognized economists have pointed out, that no privatization or disintegration of the current Cuban system of management can guarantee the country's effective reintegration into the world market.

On the contrary, they say, it is the very nature of the socialized economy that will make the effectiveness of this process viable.

* Roles of Trade Union, UBPC Discussed

94CA0046D Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 15 Nov 93 p 5

[Interview with Salvador Valdes, secretary general of the National Trade Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers, SNTAF, by Eloy Concepcion; place and date not given; first five paragraphs are TRABAJADORES introduction]

[Text] Ever since the announcement of the Politburo's decision about innovations in Cuban agriculture and before the formation of the Basic Cooperative Production Units (UBPC), questions were asked and doubts raised about the role that the union might play in these changes and transformations.

Autonomous management, a management board elected by the workers, and the decision-making power of that board and the assembly with respect to the admission and removal of their members, among other powers, find in the bylaws their guide to all the group's activity. "If this is so, what is the purpose and why is there a need for a trade union section?" some ask.

I decided to ask Salvador Valdes, secretary general of the National Trade Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers (SNTAF), to clarify this and other points.

The following are my questions and his answers.

[Concepcion] Was the union taken into account when the UBPC's were set up, and what role has it played so far?

[Valdes] The first thing we did was call a national assembly and make the Politburo resolution our own. We immediately began to hold assemblies throughout the country in order to inform all the workers in preparation for the creation of the UBPC's. The workers and technicians responded in a most positive way.

[Concepcion] The UBPC's were set up taking the experience of the best CPA's [Agricultural Livestock Cooperatives] in the country into account, but is there any difference?

[Valdes] Those forming the CPS's were landowners, individual farmers who put in their own land. The UBPC's are now made up of workers who do not have land. The government gives land to them for their permanent use. They provide a more advanced political culture. This must be taken into account.

[Concepcion] But there is another difference. The CPA's have no union section.

[Valdes] The CPA's are from a rural background and are handled by their organization, which is the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers]. The UBPC's, on the other hand, are workers trained in a political environment and accustomed to trade union affiliation. The union has represented them in the past and will continue to do so. We are undergoing a fundamental organizational change in agriculture, not an ideological change. The workers must be prepared for this.

[Concepcion] It seems to me that there are going to be many changes.

[Valdes] There is one fundamental change: that of the work culture, which must be created in workers and leaders.

[Concepcion] In other words, unlike what would happen in business.

[Valdes] Indeed. The UBPC's now enjoy au'onomy and production and their results are currently directly related to profits.

[Concepcion] Do you not think that this will be somewhat of a step backward with respect to the training they have had, that individualism will start to prevail?

[Valdes] The most difficult thing is to bring about that change in work culture, how to increase an awareness and understanding of the fact that we have to fight to maintain social justice, the gains of socialism, and a general understanding that that can be achieved only if we increase economic efficiency. We are facing a great dilemmma: making social justice compatible with economic efficiency.

[Concepcion] In other words, continuing to enjoy free health care, education, and so on, while understanding that only by work and more work shall we continue to enjoy these gains. What will the union do in the UBPC's if the board elected by the workers has the authority to demand that everyone work and do his work well?

[Valdes] The union's basic duty and the first thing it must do is support the production plan, its organization, and worker discipline so that there will be greater dedication and more efficiency.

Then what is the union? The union is sometimes confused with the union executive. The union is made up of all the workers. The union's role in the UBPC's is expanding, but with a different content and in a different way, because all problems will now be decided by the group.

[Concepcion] And what about those who do not follow the rules, who do not do their job, and who, according to the bylaws, can be dismissed?

[Valdes] The union section will hear the workers and clarify any measure they do not understand. However, we must remember that we are not all alike and do not all have the same conscience. The union section works with the board and supports it in its economic management. We have the bylaws which govern the daily life of the group, bylaws that were approved by everyone. Consequently, they must be obeyed because we cannot organize a UBPC by lowering production and productivity. On the contrary, they are being organized to increase production and unleash all the productive forces of our workers.

[Concepcion] Will production assemblies be held?

[Valdes] In the enterprises, we always wanted to have a good production assembly, but it is now in the UBPC's that we shall have a real assembly that will watch over the conservation of resources, production, and efficiency. That is the assembly that we demanded for years, but never obtained.

[Concepcion] Can it be concluded that the union's sole task will be to oversee production? Will that be its only role in the UBPC?

[Valdes] I repeat that that is its fundamental role: to fight for increased production and greater economic efficiency, but there are other tasks, for example, emulation, organizing and developing it, rewarding the best, the most outstanding workers.

We also have social tasks such as housing construction, working conditions, recreation and sports. We shall continue the task of defense by collecting funds and with the MTT [Territorial Troops Militia], the construction of tunnels, combat training, and the continuing education of workers in terms of their enlightenment, discussion, and attention to all their concerns.

[Concepcion] Have union sections already been organized in the UBPC's and how are they structured? Will they have professional leaders?

[Valdes] There will be no professional cadres. The union section is being organized along with the formation of every UBPC. Its structure will depend on factors such as distance and other considerations, but its fundamental task will be based on trade union activism.

Haiti

Varied Parties, Classes Support 11 Dec Demonstrations

FL1312165893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Thousands staged demonstrations in Haiti against the oil embargo and the international sanctions over the weekend. In Port-au-Prince, several thousand people responded to the 11 December call by some 20 organizations and parties to gather at the main square of the capital, the Champ-de-Mars. Political leaders such as Hubert de Ronceray from the Mobilization of National Development, MDN; Dejean Belizaire from the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November, MNP-28; Volvic Remy Joseph, moderate neo-Duvalierist; and Carl Denis, opponent of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, participated in the demonstration, which took place without incident and under police protection. Some demonstrators belonging to neo-Duvalierist groups displayed pictures of former President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The centrist Movement For the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, of former Prime Minister Marc Bazin brought his support to this initiative by condemning, in a press release, the embargo and the sanctions, which are supposed to contribute to the defense of democracy but are severely affecting the population, particularly those who are most deprived.

The president of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CCIH, Raymond Roy, also participated in the

gathering. The principal employers association had previously invited the international institutions objectively to acknowledge the irreversible damage of the destructive, criminal embargo which, far from achieving the desired objectives, is only increasing the gap between the social classes in the country and leading it to total ruin.

In Cap-Haitian, 260 km north of Port-au-Prince, which has been seriously affected by the embargo and totally deprived of electricity for several months, an important demonstration on 11 December gathered participants from different social classes against the UN sanctions.

'Friends of Haiti' Meet on Strengthening Embargo

FL1312172893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] On France's initiative, high-level officials from the four friends of Haiti—France, the United States, Canada, and Venezuela—will meet today and tomorrow in Paris before the conference on national security that resigning Prime Minister Robert Malval hopes to hold in Port-au-Prince.

The [UN] Security Council reimposed an oil and arms embargo on Haiti in October to prompt the putschist military to relinquish power and allow the return of the constitutional president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, overthrown on 30 September 1991. France would like for the meeting to confirm a common willingness to reinforce the embargo if the military continues to refuse the implementation of the Governors Island accord. [French Minister of Foreign Affairs] Juppe wrote to his counterparts on 21 November, proposing stiffening the sanctions by imposing a general trade embargo.

Multinational Meeting Opens

AU1312170493 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Paris, Dec 13 (AFP)—Officials from France, the United States, Canada, and Venezuela met here Monday to discuss ways to resolve the political crisis in Haiti and return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. The officials were briefed by Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval, who is to resign on December 15 to organise a conference on national salvation, the French Foreign Ministry said.

Malval, a moderate businessman appointed prime minister in August under the failed Governor's Island agreement between Aristide and military leader General Raoul Cedras, has already received backing for his initiative from the Vatican and the United States.

The French are pushing for a strengthened embargo if Cedras continues to refuse to accept the Governor's Island accord. On November 21, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe proposed a "general trade embargo" with "humanitarian exceptions."

During a meeting on December 7 with President Bill Clinton, Aristide and Malval stressed that the aim of the national salvation conference was to invigorate and enlarge the scope of negotiations on a return to democratic rule in the Caribbean island.

After Cedras refused to hand over power under the Governor's Island agreement, the U.N. Security Council reimposed an oil and military embargo against Haiti in October to pressure the military to slacken their grip.

Aristide May Withdraw Support From Conference

FL1312232393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole French 1700 GMT 13Dec93

[Text] Prime Minister Malval's initiative to hold a national conference in Port-au-Prince has received the support of the United States and the Vatican but has been received with reservations by members of the Haitian political sector.

In the camp of the president-in-exile, a certain hesitation is noticed. Jean-Bertrand Aristide is warning he may withdraw his support to the conference if it does not result in his return to power.

U.S. Repatriation Policy of Refugees Noted

FL1312173993 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1400 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The Coast Guard in Miami, Florida announced that on 12 December, the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted 111 Haitians, crammed on a 12-meter sail boat, 50 km off the north coast of Haiti. Those 111 men, women, and children, who are in good health, are due to be repatriated on 14 December, according to Sergeant Alex (Warden), Coast Guard spokesman in Miami.

This interception of Haitians attempting to flee their country is the third in one week. All Haitians attempting to flee their country toward the United States are being systematically conducted back to Haiti, under the policy ordered by the White House to stem the massive emigration of Haitians to the United States since the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

Jamaica

Strike Causes Public Health 'Crisis'

FL1312225493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 13, CANA—Hopes for a return to normalcy within Jamaica's public health sector were dashed on Monday when nurses voted to continue a five-day-old strike. The public health sector has been in crisis since last Thursday when hundreds of nurses at hospitals islandwide stopped working to protest what they say is the government's tardiness in settling wage and fringe benefit claims outstanding since 1992.

Head of the Nurses Association of Jamaica (NAJ) Ancylin Morgan told journalists on Monday that members voted at a mass meeting to "continue their protest action until there is a satisfactory conclusion of the 1992-94 (salary) negotiations".

The industrial action has already caused a drastic reduction in public hospital services with institutions closing down outpatient departments, sending home patients on the non-critical list, and accepting only emergency cases. Emergency services are being carried out by nursing supervisors and volunteers.

A meeting last Friday between the nurses' representatives and Health Minister Desmond Leakey ended inconclusively, with the minister urging the nurses to return to work, while negotiations take place.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Foreign Investment Law

PA1312174893 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Report by Jaime Guerrero from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] The new Foreign Investments Law will favor a new system of regional development by directly benefiting small and medium-sized enterprises that urgently require state-of-the-art technology to modernize and to become more competitive. This was established on 11 December during a lengthy debate lasting more than eight hours at the Chamber of Deputies, which approved the new law establishing stricter rules and legalizing new practices. The PAN [National Action Party], PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], and PPS [Popular Socialist Party] voted against the law.

In Mexico, foreign investments will be governed by a new legal framework, which the Chamber of Deputies approved by a wide margin. The new rules eliminate the executive's ability to accept or reject projects by foreign investors at its own discretion. It permits foreign capital to invest in nonresidential construction in restricted areas—that is, 100 km within the border and 50 km from the coastline. The Foreign Investments Law also will give small and medium-sized industry access to foreign capital.

Under the new Foreign Investments Law, the private sector is completely free from having to obtain permits, except those industries that have special regulations, such as the banking, communications, transportation, and media industries, as well as the state sector. One article also regulates environmental impact of investment projects. Under the new foreign investment regulations, the Legislative Branch will require the executive to present an annual report by region or economic sector of the origins and applications of foreign investments. The cooperative system will be maintained and will be introduced to companies outside the stock market. The credit system for purchasing real estate for residential purposes in restricted areas also will be maintained.

Now the National Commission of Foreign Investments will have 45 days to issue its ruling on requests for investments. If the commission is unable to comply withing this timeframe, the investment request will be considered authorized.

Trade Representative Reports on GATT Negotiations

PA1412044293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2242 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Geneva, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Today Mexican Trade Representative Herminio Blanco said he was pleased with the advantages obtained by Mexico in the Uruguay Round negotiations in terms of access to markets, subsidies, and unification of trade rules.

At a news conference for Mexican reporters, Blanco stressed that in terms of market access, Mexico was allowed to maintain its tariffs at current levels, only reducing the so-called "consolidated tariff," that is to say, the permitted tariff ceiling, to 35 percent.

He indicated that this constitutes recognition by Mexico's trade partners of the tariff reduction already undertaken by Mexico, which unilaterally reduced the average Mexican tariff as much as 10 percent despite "consolidated tariffs" of 50 percent.

Blanco also emphasized that in the chapter on subsidies, subventions for environmental reasons will be permitted, a point demanded by Mexico. He said that by including environmental subventions in the list of permitted subsidies, up to 20 percent of the cost of the ecological adaptations that an industry must make can be subsidized without prompting "antisubsidy" fines by a trade partner.

He also said that the proposed multilateral trade organization that will unify all GATT rules or instruments will offer Mexico a legal system to resolve trade controversies with countries outside the free trade treaty.

Blanco said Mexico already has 70 percent of its trade covered under NAFTA, and so it has a "more comfortable position" and faces fewer risks in the Uruguay Round. Therefore, issues that are preventing agreement among other countries, such as the liberalization of financial services, do not worry Mexico too much.

Perhaps the exception would be the antidumping issue. Blanco stressed that even in its trade with the rest of North America, Mexico would have the right to choose the rules that suit it best, either from the trade agreement or those that might emerge in GATT.

In the Uruguay Round, the antidumping issue has pitted the United States against the rest of the world, which opposes the U.S. insistence on maintaining its right to unilaterally impose antidumping fines on companies that export to its market below cost.

Blanco indicated that NAFTA's antidumping chapter is more favorable to Mexico than GATT's chapter. However, this point has not been resolved in the Round and might still result in more restrictive rules against the imposition of fines. The negotiator added that in GATT, Mexico maintains a position in the middle, because on the one hand it wants to protect its exporters from arbitrary antidumping measures, and on the other hand, it wants to maintain its right to use antidumping measures if dumping is used in the Mexican market. In fact, he stressed, Mexico is the third greatest imposer of antidumping fines.

Salinas Congratulates Chile's Frei on Election Victory

PA1312160693 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Dec 92

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] As a result of his electoral victory in the elections of the Republic of Chile, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari congratulated Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, presidential candidate for the Coalition of Parties for Democracy in that country.

The president told Frei, via telephone, that relations between Mexico and Chile will continue to receive high priority in the political, economic, and cultural areas. Salinas de Gortari and Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle also talked about the significant progress made by the Free Trade Agreement between the two nations, notably increasing bilateral exchange. In addition, they expressed their desire to meet in the near future.

PDM Presidential Hopeful Madero Interviewed

PA1312221193 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Interview with Pablo Emilio Madero, presidential candidate for the Mexican Democratic Party, PDM, by Jacobo Zabludovsky; place not given; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live]

[Excerpts] [Zabludovsky] Is your Mexican Democratic Party the same one that is a member of the National Opposition Union [UNO]? Why was a change made?

[Madero] The PDM is a registered party that held its national congress to select candidates on 6 December. It was, to a certain extent, a product of the Sinarquist movement. A number of parties and labor and civic organizations were invited to establish UNO.

The PDM is one of 17 UNO members. The National Sinarquist Union [UNS] is another. There are other organizations, a total of 17 at present. UNO is, however, open to all other groups that wish to join. The basic requirement is that we share the same principles.

[Zabludovsky] Are those the principles of the UNS, which seems to be a party of the extreme right?

[Madero] It is not a party of the extreme right. Quite the contrary. Its program, which is very rich, is based on the principles of the Social Christian doctrine, which are not on the extreme right. Quite the contrary. A humanist theory that shows concern for man, for the person, for the dignity of a citizen, and for the anguish of those who lack resources is not the same as the extreme right idea of making money at the expense of anything. Quite the contrary.

The goal is to achieve genuine social justice and give a person the respect he deserves from the time of conception to death. This applies to his family life, education as a child, and possibility of attending the university as an adult. All this is contained in an electoral platform, in a great political platform.

Before accepting the nomination on behalf of the PDM, I read the program. I reviewed the draft before it was discussed and approved. I read it and started to circulate parts that I agreed with. I want you to know that I ended up circulating the entire draft. In other words, I agreed with all of it. There were no differences in criteria and this pleased me very much.

[Zabludovsky] But you have been in another, or rather in other parties.

[Madero] That is correct. I was in the National Action Party for at least 52 years and 10 months. An entire life. I resigned on 7 October 1992 because the principles for which we had fought for so long were broken. A group of us left the party and decided to establish another one. That occurred on 20 November. Eight months ago, on 5-6 March we established a doctrine and democratic front. The party we created defends the principles that we have defended for so long.

That was the Democratic Forum Party [PFD]. We shaped it, we worked all over the country. I was elected president for a year. My term ended in March. I still belong to it but resigned as its president out of principle. I thought that I was obliged to resign for having made a decision without consultation, because it involved a personal decision that I had discussed only with my family. I had to resign to avoid compromising my party, the PFD. The party had held....[pauses] may I give some background?

[Zabludovsky] Yes, go ahead.

[Madero] The party held a convention on 30-31 October. Four options were discussed. One of them was to not participate in the elections. We thought only eight months were left and that we would not have an adequate structure to carry out a campaign. The other opinion was to participate but with our own candidates although we are not yet registered. Our party was denied registration.

[Zabludovsky] Please explain that.

[Madero] Yes, we were denied registration. That was the decision of the IFE, the Federal Electoral Institute. A decision backed by parties that do not want any competition. They think that the fewer the parties, the better. The (Cofipe) said the IFE can register parties that request so; and we are also entitled to be registered. It is as simple as that. As a result, we filed a petition [amparo] and the case is currently at the Supreme Court of Justice.

Justice could be served here. We filed a petition [amparo] because Article 9 of the Constitution states that all Mexicans are entitled to participate in politics. To be

able to participate in politics we need to have a political party. Thus, they cannot say that we are not entitled to a political party. It is absurd. We are appealing and will wait for the court's ruling. Thus, alternative two is to participate even without registration.

The third was a letter we received from Cuauhtemoc Cardenas inviting the PFD to participate in his efforts and consider the possibility of running with an undetermined number of additional deputy and senator candidates. The exact number is still to be defined. Last, we received a letter from (Marcelo Varquiola Felix), PDM president, inviting us to join forces with them, because our ideological identities are similar. When we discussed this at the convention we decided to drop the first alternative.

The people want to participate. They want to participate despite the few years we have been working and despite the fact that we have been unable to structure the party as it has grown and taken shape.

We studied the three remaining options. Following two voting sessions, there were two options left: Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' invitation, which had 51.5 percent of the vote, and the possibility of running without registration and with our own candidates, which managed 48.5 percent of the vote. I presided over the convention and noticed that there were several complaints. Many people were not pleased. Some even began shouting and ranting, saying that it was not right to accept alliances with parties with which we disagree ideologically. I took the floor and told the delegates that I did not vote for that option. I said this calmly and added that I was not about to deceive anyone. I had not spoken publicly before that, because I did not want to influence the delegates' opinion. I invite you to work for the PFD; let us work for the PFD.

After that I got phone calls at home and at the office both for and against asking what happened—why, I cannot understand—and so on. So you see, it was a constant flow of dissatisfaction. This began to snowball to a certain extent, and personally, I was dissatisfied as well.

I remember that there was one pending issue, which was a discussion between the two parties—the PFD and the PRD—about the basic ideological points on which we agreed. How were we to plot our campaign if we did not agree? We appointed a commission to start working on this and called a meeting to draw up and present Cuauhtemoc Cardenas a list of the 15 basic points. We made an appointment, and I arrived with Jorge Eugenio Ortiz and Gallegos. There, I found that a news conference had been called with more than 100 journalists and television cameras.

We held our meeting and presented the list. After that we posed for pictures. I spoke clearly and openly when answering the journalists' questions. I told them that the PFD must still meet two requirements. We will discuss these 15 points and the candidate agreement during the next convention, on which was agreed for this purpose. There, the PFD members will be able to speak out. They will have the opportunity to express their thoughts, as we are going to discuss these ideological issues.

One journalist asked: What happens if you do not come to an agreement? Well, I said, there must be an agreement. If there is no agreement there can be no alliance, and there are several difficult ideological issues at hand. Another journalist asked: What will happen on the abortion issue? What does the PFD say about abortion? There is no doubt whatsoever about the abortion issue, I said, and the party maintains that a child has the right to life from the moment of conception. There, we will have a problem with the PRD. Yes, I said. There are those in the PRD who believe abortion should be legalized and considered a method of birth control. We totally disagree on that. What I want, however, is for the commission to draft the proposal and present it to the political parties for them to decide.

Knowing all of this background information, things began to get complicated for me. I thought to myself: Here I am representing a party that has certain principles, and it will be impossible to find any agreement on the basic issues—the issue of education, religion, land ownership, and all of the 15 issues we had.

The people were quite restless, and it came to the point where I said: I want to work for the PFD—I want to make that clear—and think I am working for the PFD in two ways. One way was to resign and accept a presidential nomination with the purpose of clearly stating all of the principles we are defending and that coincide with the PFD's principles. The PFD members who would like to come over are free to do so. I have made no effort to convince any PFD members. I came alone, with my wife and children and that is all. I hope you agree with me on this. I do not want anyone to think I took advantage of my rank to influence and attract people over because I did not. I took the step and informed the party that I was resigning from the Presidency.

This bothered many people, but I knew that it would and I apologized. I had to be consistent with my conscience. Let me say that I am working for the PFD in two ways: One, by offering an option to whomever wants to vote for something that is consistent with their way of thinking; the other is by building bridges. I believe that sooner of later it will be necessary for all organizations that share the same ideology to create a solid structure. I believe this new organization—the National Opposition Union, which uses Mexico's map to distinguish itself—is the beginning of that. I think that that is the direction in which we are moving.

There are 17 groups, and I believe many more will be joining. This bridge-building process is to understand and get to know each other, to promote mutual trust that will allow us to speak the same language. I think that my effort will contribute to the unity I find necessary. Within the Mexican political scene we used to see the ruling party and its strategic allies; on the other hand we had the groups that leaned somewhat to the left. Then

there was a vacuum. By joining the elections struggle, we have filled that vacuum and have provided another option. [passage omitted]

Regarding education, we believe it must be improved. There is underdevelopment in this area in Mexico. According to statistics, the average education level for our people is the fourth year. I think we are moving up now to the fifth year; this is not enough in a competitive world.

I think we must definitely make some progress. We think that our education must be reformed and that it must be acknowledged that parents have the right to direct their children's education. They have the right to choose the kind of education their children should receive, not in geography or arithmetics, rather in their formative aspects. I think the parents' rights in this regard must be respected.

An effort should be made to provide secondary and university education to train many people. We will be needing them. Mexico needs to train technicians to face the challenge we have in front of us. NAFTA goes into effect in January, and we must be able to face it. To face it we must have trained Mexican technicians who should be able not only to learn the leading techniques from elsewhere but also to create our own techniques. Our scientists are very capable; they have demonstrated this. I think we must make an effort in the education field at the national level to make education accessible in all corners of the country and to all the people. Let no one go without an education for lack of resources; this is fundamental. [passage omitted]

[Zabludovsky] As an engineer, you are a man familiar with numbers. Let us talk about finances and NAFTA.

[Madero] Progress has been made in controlling inflation, for example. We used to have a three-digit inflation rate, and now it is down to one-digit. This is undeniable. We—I say we because I am expressing ideas contained in the program approved yesterday by the national convention—believe, however, that in making this inflation-control effort, the burden was placed on those who have the least. Salary freezing is one mechanism to check inflation, but this is one mechanism placed on the shoulders of those who have the least, to the point that the purchasing power of today's salaries is one-third of what it used to be 12 years ago; this has to change. We have to realize that salary increases must go at a quicker pace than the inflation rate to recover the purchasing power of the Mexicans, especially that of those Mexican families that live on two or three minimum salaries.

Regarding NAFTA, there are those who believe that all of it is darkness and those who think that it is all brightness. I think it has shadows as well as light; that is, it represents risks and opportunities. I think a big effort must be made to make known the treaty's contents so that all of the Mexican people may be informed about it, so that we know the risks and opportunities it entails, to avoid the risks and to take on the opportunities; that is, the treaty must be known in detail to be able to pass judgment on it. [passage omitted]

The political platform we approved states that the creation of small- and medium-size industries must be firmly promoted, especially by partnerships. [passage omitted]

Our platform has a special chapter on cooperatives. Cooperatives are a superior form of ownership. Those who benefit from cooperatives are the owners of the cooperative. This is very significant. We believe that the cooperative system must be promoted. It has been very successful in Colombia, Venezuela, Spain, Italy, and Canada. We should have it here too. In Mexico there have been setbacks in the past. We must change the law on this, eliminate defects, and take advantage of the cooperatives system, a great idea.

[Zabludovsky] In recent weeks—just as I now have the pleasure of speaking with you—I interviewed other official candidates of political parties. I wait until the political parties officially announce their candidate before asking them to grant me an interview. What do you think of your rivals?

[Madero] I respect them all. We are all struggling for what each one believes. I think that the competition should be based not on criticism or personal attacks but on ideas. I respect them all. We are going to struggle, and we are going to ask the Mexican people for their votes and let the Mexican people decide. I respect them all. I do not want to insult anybody.

[Zabludovsky] What do you think of the public security situation? We are concerned about it.

[Madero] This is a problem that must be checked, because it is one of Mexico's main problems. There is a terrible feeling of insecurity. This is not an exclusive Mexican problem. You cannot walk the streets of New York City after certain hours, because one risks being mugged. In Mexico this is a delicate situation. Cases of kidnappings and assaults have increased. Even trains and trucks are being robbed. A big effort must be made to firmly remedy the situation. I think that this can be done by increasing security forces and by being immovable with those found guilty so that there is no impunity; impunity contributes, to a certain extent, to crime.

[Zabludovsky] What do you mean by immovable? The death sentence?

[Madero] No. I mean that crime must not be ignored and that the weight of the law must be applied firmly. I do not think about death sentences, but I do think about exemplary punishment to discourage crime.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Madero, as the PDM and UNO coalition presidential candidate, do you think that the current electoral identification card, which includes the owner's photograph and other vote-casting control systems, are trustworthy?

[Madero] Well.... [pauses] It is undeniable that there has been progress in this regard. I think this identification card represents tremendous progress. We struggled for that for many years, and now it has been secured. This is great, but this situation must be perfected. [passage omitted]

We have to ensure that political parties have channels to make their positions known, that the voting lists they are given two months ahead of the elections are the lists that will be used at the voting booths, and that there will be opportunities to selectively check voting booths to see how accurate the voting lists are. This would promote calm.

There are deficiencies in integrating electoral organizations; there is no impartiality. The governing party and the government have a majority; that is, the government and its party. We think this must be corrected. There must be impartiality. When there is partiality, the people do not trust that the results will be impartial, and due to this there is election bickering after every single election. This cannot continue, because election-related brawls produce resentment, and resentment mounts up, and this is bad for a country, because no one knows what will happen if this situation reaches a critical point. What Mexico needs least is violence. We need democracy; we have to arrive at democracy. It is most necessary to arrive there.

[Zabludovsky] As PDM presidential candidate, would you accept the results if they show that you did not win?

[Madero] If the elections are quiet, if voters are allowed to vote freely, if the counting is correct, and if the representatives of the political parties confirm this, I would abide by the results, because we would be accepting the decision of the people, who is who must decide. Decisions must not be a product of negotiations by leaders. It is the people who have the right to decide, and I respect this.

[Zabludovsky] You were a member of the National Action Party [PAN] in the days when Gomez Molina, whom I barely knew, was a member.

[Madero] I became a member in 1939, but I was not a founder of the party. The party was founded three months before I became a member.

[Zabludovsky] Why did you leave this party after belonging to it for 52 years?

[Madero] In 1989 there was a constitutional reform. You probably remember that. The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], which is the governing party, needed the support of the PAN deputies to secure the majority the PRI needed to produce a constitutional reform, because to have a constitutional reform you need more than half of the votes; you need a significant and solid majority. PRI needed votes, and there was tremendous pressure to, quote, convince, unquote, the PAN deputies to vote in favor of that reform.

As a result of this, and acting contrary to ideas for which we had struggled for many years, the support was granted and a constitutional reform was approved. [passage omitted]

We saw this as improper. There was another factor. It was said that the Federal Electoral Tribunal should comprise officials appointed by the president of the country. We were against this. A group of us said: It is unbelievable that PAN could approve something that undoes something for which we have struggled for a long time and that we were about to secure, because PRI needed the PAN votes to produce a reform. Therefore, PAN granted this. Then came [word indistinct] with many gaps and defficiencies, and we created what we called a national action doctrine and democratic forum. Then they told us: Take off that national action part; you are a doctrinaire and democratic forum only and, therefore, do not use the national action name. Well, we did not use the name of national action. For three years we struggled without having the words national action as part of our name. We unsuccessfully struggled to rectify this. [passage omitted]

PAN improperly used the veto privilege, people were improperly expelled, and committees were annulled. In other words, there was this kind of constraint. At one point, we analyzed the situation and decided we needed to radically change PAN and that this could be done only by means of new statutes. In turn, we drafted statutes that contained two fundamental changes. One brief article said no one can be punished for criticizing those having party power. We did this to make clear the rights of the militants. The second proposed change was that the party's national president was to be designated by a national assembly and not by a council composed of 200 people, of which only 150 or 160—most of them party staffers—participate in council meetings. It was also decided that state presidents be designated by state assemblies instead of by a council comprising 30 or 40 people. [passage omitted]

At a meeting of the National Council held on 26 September of last year I was chosen to present a point of agreement. It sounds absurd, but the point was to ask the National Council to tell the National Executive Committee that it had an obligation to present to the special National Assembly all of its documents, and to do this by presenting complete documents, without adornment. The proposal was defeated. This means that a violation of the statutes had been approved. We left the party and we never returned. [passage omitted]

[Zabludovsky] As presidential candidate of the PDM, what would you do for the health sector?

[Madero] Much has been done in terms of health. Statistics show that hospitals have been opened. We have to ensure that health services reach all parts of the country. There are people who do not have essential health services. We have to see that they get these

services. I think there is much to be done in this field. I think an effort should be made to provide services everywhere.

Health care must become more humane. All Mexicans should be given an opportunity to receive health care. Too many people have no protection. People who have no job are helpless in this regard. We have to make sure there are mechanisms to support them everywhere.

I will confess something. My uncle Francisco Madero brought from France the idea of homeopathic medicine. My parents used it very much. I think it is great. It can be used without side effects. Nevertheless, I think there has been official resistance to it. Laboratories would fail to receive as much money, but this should be of no importance, considering how good it would be for the health of the people. I think homeopathic medicine should be given a chance. [passage omitted]

[Zabludovsky] Do you think the constitutional reforms in terms of church and state divisions have been enough?

[Madero] No, I think we must advance a little farther. No doubt, some progress has been made. I do not think the Church should be subordinate to the state or the Government Secretariat. The Church already gave them the [word indistinct] registries; there was no problem, but just being there entails subordination. And the temples... [pauses] The Mexican people must build their temples, and they must be used for the purpose for which the people built them. That right must be respected without interference by the authorities. I do not understand why this is so. If it was a step, and a major one, perhaps a full step could not be taken because of the many forces that were against it.

We still have to reach the goal of fully respecting churches, and I am not just talking about the Catholic Church, which is the largest one and with a legacy in Mexico, but also about all churches. Their identity and temples should be respected. I think this will put churches in a position they deserve. Churches have a restriction. They cannot have real access to the news media, and why not? [passage omitted]

[Zabludovsky] As the PDM presidential candidate, what would you do about oil?

[Madero] Oil is a very important issue. I think Mexico currently lives to a large extent... [pauses] Its economy rests on oil exports. It exports 1.5 million barrels a day. Oil, however, is finite; it does not last indefinitely. I think we should—I have spoken about this in the Chamber of Deputies—consider imposing a limit. We should say exports are suspended when reserves reach the 40-year mark based on consumption forecasts for Mexico's growth. This way, we will have almost two generations to find alternative sources of energy.

To be sure, we must devote time and money to drilling and to being able to quantify our resources in order that a lack of exploration will not hamper the strategy of exporting and establishing restrictions on exports. We have to know what we have. There is, however, another very important aspect. We must attach great importance to alternative sources of energy. I do not know whether you have been to the Tehuantepec Isthmus. In La Ventosa, on the road where the Tehuantepec Isthmus is located, the area is narrow and the wind is constantly blowing. Some say that if a truck breaks down in this area, the wind and sand that hits it will remove the paint from one of its sides. We must take advantage of this source of energy. We can produce many millions of watts. We are already taking advantage of geothermal sources, but perhaps not sufficiently. We must remember we are country with large volcanic formations.

We should exhaust all the possibilities of hydraulics and explore solar and tidal energy. All of them are renewable sources of energy. This way, we will be able to get Mexico ready for the time when oil runs out, because we live off oil exports and the use of the oil we have here. The day it runs out we will face a double whammy. We are not going to be able to export, and we will have to purchase energy at a high price. This way, we are going to have to make great efforts to find alternative sources of energy. [passage omitted]

[Zabludovsky] Would you participate in a debate with the other candidates?

[Madero] I certainly feel everybody should participate in the debate. It is not right to say this candidate can and this one cannot participate. I believe it is advisable to have a general debate, and I will glad to participate. I think it will be very interesting for the people of Mexico; it would be a step forward in the democratic process we are experiencing. We are hoping to see the fulfillment of this goal. We should all participate under equal conditions.

[Zabludovsky] Would you like to add anything?

[Madero] I would first like to thank you for your kind invitation. I would also like to invite the people of Mexico to regain faith in Mexico and to regain the certainty that their vote is a very important weapon. If we succeed in changing the culture of absentionism, since a 70 percent absentionism rate is the rule, with the participation of 70 percent or more we could bring about a change in this country. If only 25 percent of Chilcans had voted when Pinochet held a referendum, he would still be where he was in Chile. Instead, 92 percent of the people voted and Pinochet had to step down.

We must convey to the people the certainty that they can make such a change and that their vote is valid. In the end, however, it depends on the people and on whether they use the vote as a tool to bring about a necessary change.

[Zabludovsky] It has been nice listening to you.

[Madero] It has been nice....

[Zabludovsky, interrupting] I only want to say one more thing. Here, in this place where I have had this nice talk with you, you have a banner that reads: UNO-PDM, Madero. It also carries your photograph. How are you going to participate in the elections, as UNO or PDM?

[Madero] PDM is registered with the commission and the Federal Electoral Institute. It is registered as a political party, and therefore it can be listed in the ballot and the people can express their will. UNO is an organization we are creating. It was created with 17 organizations, in addition to the ones that will come later. We agree on the essential thing—namely, ideology. We are going to join our forces across the map of Mexico. That is our symbol. We want to think of Mexico, unite forces for Mexico, and achieve the change needed in the country to meet all of the objectives we have outlined and are contained in our political platform. This is the election symbol we are proposing.

To be sure, PDM heads the registration as a party. All the other institutions, organizations, and parties that may come—some are even state organizations—do not lose their identity. That is the commitment all of us have acquired. I do not lose my identity as a member of the Democratic Forum Party. We are thinking that someday after the elections we may get together and decide: We have this experience, let us analyze the possibility of creating a single organization, and then we will change the name.

[Zabludovsky] Then, you are officially the PDM candidate.

[Madero] That is right, from a electoral standpoint. UNO will be the PDM's symbol. During the convention and national congress we held yesterday, we had a splendid discussion. Every one was able to talk. Some tried to change the symbol.

The little rooster has been a PDM symbol. Why? It is the Sinarquist tradition, which is the source from which the PDM arose. There was resistance to let the rooster go. The majority voted in favor of using this symbol instead. It no longer has the little rooster. It carries the map of Mexico, which unites all of us, instead of the rooster that unites a group. In my speech, I told the Sinarquists who were present that I cannot conceive any rally in this campaign without a flag with the little rooster. The rooster symbol is alive. We must continue onward. [passage omitted]

Belize

Former Diplomat Threatens To Sue Esquivel

PA1312183193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0921 GMT 11 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 11 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Salvador Amin Figueroa, former Belizean charge d'affaires in Guatemala, has threatened to sue Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel for correspondence and telephone "espionage," as well as for political persecution. Amin Figueroa told NOTIMEX that per instructions from the Belizean minister, documents received in the Guatemalan capital were retransmitted to the Caribbean nation by First Secretary Henry W. Anderson and that his conversations were recorded.

Amin Figueroa charged on 8 December that several opposition politicians—among them former Foreign Minister Said Musa; former Senator Winston Smiling; and Harry Courtenay, vice president of the former ruling People's United Party (PUP)—were jailed and accused of conspiring against Esquivel. Amin Figueroa was accused together with Musa of conspiring to oust Esquivel, and this led to the diplomat's resignation from his post.

Henry W. Anderson, the new charge d'affaires at the Guatemalan mission, said that Esquivel, who assumed power for five years in July, had "averted" a conspiracy by the PUP that sought to oust him from power through a technical "coup d'etat." [passage omitted]

Diplomat Amin Figueroa rejected accusations by the Belizean Government, and he said he decided to resign given the "terrorist policy" orchestrated by Esquivel against the opposition.

Said Musa, former foreign minister in George Price's government, sent a fax addressed to Figueroa, which was intercepted on Esquivel's instructions, outlining the urgent need to "internationalize" the serious threat to the democratic system. In the fax, Musa asked Figueroa to make public the incidents to other nations friendly to Belize.

The fax said: "By incident and through reliable sources we know that the cabinet (Esquivel's) has decided to denaturalize the Guatemalans (2,240) who have obtained nationality since the 1981 independence (43.04 percent of all foreigners who have been naturalized in this country)." According to Musa, the policy orchestrated by Esquivel is somewhat inhumane and discriminatory against Guatemala, because it denies nationality to families who have settled in Belize. The former foreign minister labeled Esquivel's move an "antagonizing action" against Belizean-Guatemalan diplomatic relations.

Dean Barrow, Belizean foreign minister, circulated a document in Guatemala that says Figueroa's behavior is "unacceptable" for a Belizean diplomat. Barrow said: "Seeking to internationalize an internal problem and arguing that the democratic system is being adversely affected by a terrorist policy is a situation that is unacceptable to the current government."

Costa Rica

'National Emergency' Declared in Flooded Areas

PA1312194393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1647 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] San Jose, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government has declared a "national emergency" in the wake of disasters caused by a rainy spell that left, as of today, four dead, several missing, 50 flooded towns, and 33,000 homeless along Costa Rica's Caribbean coastline.

Torrential and continuous rain has lashed Costa Rica's Caribbean coastline and Panama's Bocas del Toro Province since Thursday claiming lives and causing damage estimated in the millions to housing, communications, bridges, and agriculture, which could face total losses.

Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon on Saturday declared a "national emergency" to allow state institutions and the private sector to transfer resources to the National Emergency Commission (CNE), which is coordinating the actions of all aid and police teams that are helping disaster victims. The CNE reported that most of the persons affected are in the region of Talamanca, neighboring with Panama, and that their homes and crops are flooded. It added that 8,000-10,000 people lost their homes and belongings, which were swept away by the current of rivers that overflowed because of the persistent rain.

Although the metereological service reported that this is a "normal" phenomenon at this time of year that marks the beginning of the dry season, which is summer, the media and the authorities insist that this rainy spell is unprecedented. The newspaper LA NACION described the phenomenon as a "record flood" and pointed out that this is the worst one in Costa Rican history while the newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported that "this is the worst rainy spell in decades."

CNE Director Humberto Trejos said that there are more homeless people in this case than were left by floods in 1991 in Limon—also along the Caribbean coastline—and by Hurricane Jane in October 1988, which had been considered the worst floods. The CNE report points out that the beds of several rivers, which flow into the Caribbean Sea, reached their "limit" and added that they could overflow and flood new areas should weather conditions not improve in the next few hours.

Aid teams over the weekend relocated people to safer ground and rescued others who were isolated by the floods.

The Metereological Institute reported that heavy rains that created an emergency in the Caribbean coastline

will continue with less intensity on Sunday, but showers will range from moderate to strong. The area affected by rain, according to the report, includes Matina, along Costa Rica's central Caribbean area, the coastline to the south, and the central volcanic mountain range and the Gulfo de los Mosquitos in northern Panama.

The metereological report adds that the rains are affecting Gulfo de los Mosquitos and Laguna de Chiriqui (Panama), the maritime region between Costa Rica and Panama, the border between the two countries, and the valleys of La Estrella and Talamanca (Costa Rica).

Guatemala

Fired Female Workers Occupy Korean Embassy

PA1412002793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Guatemala, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—More than 50 female workers who were fired from a Korean manufacturing company peacefully occupied the Korean Embassy in Guatemala on 13 December to demand payment of their salaries and labor benefits.

Edgar Portillo, a leader of the Guatemalan Workers' General Central Organization (CGTG), explained that the women occupied the embassy to pressure the owners of the "Sony International" assembly company to pay them the salaries they still owe them.

The occupation of the mission will last until the diplomats promise to intercede so that the owners of the company, who have made no statements to the press, pay their labor benefits, he said.

According to Portillo, the businessmen fired 387 workers this year and promised to pay their salaries and labor benefits but have not fulfilled their promise.

The labor leader, who did not specify the amount of the debt, said that the workers only received one of the two salaries agreed with the owners of the company, which makes clothing for export to Korea and the United States and which is located in the southern area of Villa Nueva.

Neither Guatemalan authorities nor Korean diplomats have spoken about the incident.

Workers Leave; Support Promised

PA1412020693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0039 GMT 14 Dec 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The approximately 50 female workers who occupied the South Korean Embassy in this capital earlier today have left the installation after Korean diplomats promised that the embassy will support their demand that the Korean firm that dismissed them pay them their dues.

Hector Godinez, a leader of the Guatemalan Workers' General Central Organization, provided this information to ACAN-EFE.

According to Godinez, the Korean Embassy has committed itself to procuring from the owners of a clothes-manufacturing company $100,000 in payment to 387 Guatemalan women who were dismissed in August.

Embassy sources have confirmed to ACAN-EFE that the mission's installations have been vacated. The sources stated that they do not know the details of the arrangement reached by the workers and the diplomats, who were not identified.

This afternoon approximately 50 former employees of Este-Oeste, a Korean enterprise that has changed its name to Sony International, peacefully occupied the diplomatic mission to request that the three owners of the manufacture company pay them their due salaries and labor benefits.

According to Godinez, the embassy has assumed the commitment of performing the necessary work so that the Guatemalan workers are paid by 21 December at the latest.

Godinez said that the Korean businessmen have offered 75 machines to the workers, but the value of these machines is less than 25 percent of the company's debt, which amounts to 500,000 quetzales (approximately $100,000).

The workers were "unjustly" dismissed at the end of August, and the Koreans promised to pay them their salaries in two payments but made only one payment, the workers leader said.

Godinez explained that the Koreans "are violating Guatemalan labor laws by not paying labor benefits."

Sony International manufactures all sorts of clothes, but during this time of the year owners warn that their situation is such that they may have to shut down operations and then offer to pay their employees only 50 percent of their salaries. If the employees do not accept this, the owners will dismiss them, Godinez said.

De Leon Praises Air Force's Work on Anniversary

PA1312174993 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 10 Dec 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] On Friday the Guatemalan Air Force celebrated its 62d anniversary with a protocol ceremony at General Headquarters in Zone 13. The event was attended by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, who is also general commander of the Armed Forces; members of the High Command; and several state ministers. During his speech, President de Leon Carpio spoke of the Air Command's contributions to the fatherland.

[Begin de Leon Carpio recording] Since 1921 the Guatemalan Air Force has helped the Guatemalan people by providing aid and transportation to and from the remotest areas of the nation. It has offered assistance during natural disasters at home and abroad. I am aware of the effort the Air Force made during the seventies in the (Inchame) region, and I also remember the help provided by Air Force helicopters and airplanes to the people most affected by the 1976 earthquake. The Air Force also has helped in Nicaragua, Jamaica, and so on.

I am also aware of the Air Force's patrol missions throughout the country to help protect our heritage and maintain our environment, and it is my duty to mention the Air Force's pilots and technical personnel, whose bravery has been permanently proven and has been reflected in their work over the past 12 years, from 1981 to 1993. The work of Air Force personnel has been characterized by efficiency, dedication, and above all else, their love for their work and the fulfillment of their mission. [end recording]

Enriquez on Returning Refugees, Peace Talks

PA1412034793 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 10 Dec 93

[From the "Telepress" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez Morales [rank as heard] said there is a good possibility that talks between the government and the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] Command will resume soon so an overall peace agreement can be reached. Gen. Enriquez also expressed his views on a temporary cease-fire, especially in areas such as Ixcan and Quiche, where Guatemalan repatriates have settled.

[Begin recording] [Enriquez] I have a very positive view of this new phase of talks, this new phase of the process to achieve firm and lasting peace in Guatemala. I hope the effort will be truly imbued with real political resolve to achieve a firm and lasting peace agreement, which we all hope will happen as soon as possible.

[Unidentified reporter] Will a cease-fire be necessary prior to that meeting?

[Enriquez] I think a cease-fire is feasible; we discussed it a lot in the final stages of the previous negotiations. Nevertheless, our present discussions have focused on a definitive cease-fire in the area where returning refugees are settling and in the areas where the CPR's [Communities of Resistant People] are located so our refugee brothers and the CPR's can live in peace and calm, without feeling persecuted or threatened by the URNG or in fear of the Guatemalan Army or the volunteer committees. They should be able to settle here in peace at once.

Again, I ask the government to prove its political resolve to achieve a definitive cease-fire between the Ixcan and Xalbal Rivers so all our brothers who have sought refuge in El Salvador [as heard] can return, so members of the CPR's can live comfortably, and so there can be peace, at least in this area.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] detachments in the urban areas you had mentioned earlier?

[Enriquez] I made an offer to the Ixcan Grande cooperative representatives who came to talk to me, and I also spoke with the permanent commissions, the UNHCR, and even representatives from the Episcopal Conference, (Agricar), COMAR [Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees] and CEAR [Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriated People]. I told them it was our collective responsibility—I told you reporters the same thing—not to have to tell those refugees they would be bringing women and children to an area where there are armed clashes. The refugees are aware of the situation now, and they also know that the defense minister said the Army could withdraw from the urban area to make room for their homes and could go to a nearby area. Moreover, we have asked one of the Ixcan Grande cooperatives to rent us land so we can establish our garrison far from where they are. We would be comfortable there. What we cannot do, however, is move out of an area where subversives are operating. Constitutionally speaking, we must remain there until the problem ends.

That is why we would truly like to see the URNG show the political resolve to say [words indistinct] a definitive cease-fire verified by the United Nations, and we would have a peaceful place for our refugees and CPR members to live.

[Reporter] Has the Army removed the mines from those areas?

[Enriquez] The Army has not removed any mines. It has simply informed repatriated refugees that they must be very careful in those areas because they were mined by the subversives, and many soldiers and officers have been maimed there. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Parliamentary Factions Sign Agreement on Reforms

PA1412004993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Dec 93 pp 1, 12

[Article by Jorge Katin]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Union [UDC] has pledged to be fully integrated, as of today, into the parliamentary sessions, paving the way for the constitutional reforms and the internal stability of the Legislative Assembly. The leaders of the parliamentary factions—Unity and Reconciliation, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], the UDC, and the Center Group—labeled the agreement as "historic."

After three hours of negotiations at the offices of Gustavo Tablada, Legislative Assembly president, an agreement was signed at last. In addition to the signing by the leaders of the four parliamentary factions—Frank Duarte, Sergio Ramirez, Cairo M. Lopez, and Alejandro Solorzano—Tablada also signed the agreement.

The agreement instructs 58 deputies to promote the draft bill on the constitutional reforms, prior to consultation with the other state branches and other sectors.

It also spells out a commitment to devise a legislative agenda before 31 January and to reform the current bylaws and internal regulations thereby reducing the board of directors' term to only one year.

The reforms to the bylaws as announced on 6 December by the FSLN will most certainly be presented during today's session. These reforms will remove powers from the Legislative Assembly president. After the reforms to the bylaws are approved, many of the decisions made by the Legislative Assembly president will have to be agreed upon and approved by the votes of at least four board of directors members.

A parliamentary source has told BARRICADA that the new president will not be able to appoint the executive secretary on his own nor change the established agenda at his liking.

The election for the board of directors will be held on 10 January; those elected will take office that same day. Up until now, the sole known candidate has been Luis Humberto Guzman, of the Social Christian Party.

After the signing of the agreements, Guzman commented that this is merely a starting point to put the Legislative Assembly on the road to recovering the stability so longed for by the nation. Guzman said: "We hope these agreements will help 1994 be the year of political stability."

Guzman confirmed his candidacy for the presidency of the Legislative Assembly and recalled that he is the candidate proposed by the National Opposition Union [UNO], at the end of Alfredo Cesar's term.

Sergio Ramirez, chief of the FSLN faction, has said that the agreement was historic, but he did not rule out that other political forces represented in the Legislative Assembly will also sign the agreement before 9 January. "This is not closed," he added.

Meanwhile, Miriam Arguello said one week ago that her party (Conservative Popular Action) will wait until 15 December—the deadline fixed by the UNO to recover the parliamentary majority—to make decisions as a party.

Everything appears ready for the 58 deputies to raise their hands tomorrow and approve the reforms to the two Articles (192 and 195) of the Constitution, which will allow drastic reforms to the Constitution to be drawn up during the FSLN government.

The only riddle left to be solved is what will be the government's attitude when faced with the scope of the constitutional reforms. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo appeared uneasy on Monday regarding the possible limitation on the executive's discretionary powers in the economic field. Up until now, the executive's position on reforms is unknown.

The UNO Political Council suspended a scheduled meeting last night to discuss the Independent Liberal Party's request to oust the UDC party from the coalition. Some coalition members labeled the gesture as wise.

Constitutional Reforms Commission Created

PA1412044993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Dec 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] The government created a constitutional reforms commission yesterday tasked with preparing its own proposal. Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, government commission coordinator, told BARRICADA that the commission will base its work on a comparative study of the package devised by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Opposition Union [UNO].

"We feel that the simple shifting of authority from the executive branch to the legislative branch will not solve the problem," Mr. Rosales said.

To illustrate his point, he used the selection of Supreme Court justices. According to the UNO-FSLN proposal, the justices will be selected from a list of nominees presented by the jurist associations, not by the president, as is the case now. The minister said that this would violate the principle of equality before the law established by the Constitution itself.

The government's attention will be focused on those reforms affecting the Executive Branch, however, and, more specifically, the issue of nonreelection. The FSLN-UNO agreement states that there is no reelection for a consecutive term.

This should be subject to a study, Rosales said, "because Dona Violeta would be denied the possibility of running for reelection. Antonio Lacayo would also be barred by the Fourth Degree Kinship Restriction established in the project. The Liberals oppose that, because Virgilio Godoy could not be a candidate either, but Daniel Ortega and Humberto Ortega have the doors wide open to them," the minister protested.

According to Rosales, the problem is that the Constitution does not clearly state what can and cannot be reformed and what a partial or total reform means. The ideal thing would have been not to touch Article 192 at all, Rosales said, thus confirming the reports that the Presidency is studying the possibility of resorting to a claim against the reform approved yesterday.

From a constitutional theory point of view, that would be unacceptable, Rosales said. He explained that the difference between ordinary law and constitutional law is that the latter cannot be reformed as often and, therefore, this should have been avoided.

Three officials are working on the reforms package: Tomas Delaney, Jose Adan Guerra, and Rosales himself. The commission will have its first comparative analysis of all the proposals ready by next week. According to Rosales, however, there is time enough not to hurry things.

The executive commission member said: "I disagree with the need for prior legislative authorization to negotiate international agreements. This is not so in any other Western democracy," the minister argued. "What is presented to parliament or congress is the finished document. It is absurd to have to ask permission to negotiate something," he concluded.

Panama

Arnulfist Party, PRD Reject Possible Alliance

PA1312201293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Dec 93 p 1A

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas and Arnulfo Barroso]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara, as well as presidential candidates Mireya Moscoso de Gruber and Ernesto Perez Balladares, yesterday rejected a possible alliance between the Arnulfist Party and the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

Moscoso de Gruber, in a telephone interview with EL PANAMA AMERICA, said that, as long as she is president of the Arnulfist Party, "there will be no alliance with the PRD."

Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, the presidential candidate for the Arnulfists, added: "I am the only person authorized to negotiate a coalition, and I am the party's legal representative and spokesperson. Therefore, no one else should be talking about alliances with other parties." The politician pointed out that she had just learned "some Arnulfists are talking with PRD members." She also said she intends to raise this issue at a meeting of her party's National Directorate next week.

Immigration Director Antonio Dominguez, who is also a member of the Arnulfist Party, on 9 December disclosed that members of his party had contacted some PRD members.

Moscoso de Gruber underscored that the Arnulfists cannot strike an alliance with a party that has caused Panama "so much damage" and that inspired the fraud perpetrated against Dr. Arnulfo Arias in 1984.

Meanwhile, President Endara also rejected an alliance between the Arnulfists and PRD members, and he advised Moscoso de Gruber to disavow Antonio Dominguez as a spokesman. The chief of the executive branch advised Moscoso de Gruber to do what he did: disavow Dominguez.

In the meantime, PRD presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares "emphatically" denied the possibility of forging an alliance with parties that "have the historical stigma" of having been installed in a foreign base following a military invasion.

"We disavow any talks with the official parties," said the PRD member. He also pointed out that he does not fear the reopening of the Van-Dam case [reference to project to build a bridge over the Panama Canal], for which he was investigated.

PRD Candidate Not To Reactivate Defense Forces

PA1312163393 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Dec 93 p 10A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Excerpt] Ernesto Perez Balladares, Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] presidential candidate, has said that if he should win the 1994 presidential elections he would not reactivate the defunct army [Panama Defense Forces, FDP], nor would he reintegrate into the Public Force those military officers who were discharged by President Guillermo Endara's administration.

Perez assured: "I am not in favor of reestablishing the army or of reintegrating even one of the officers not currently a Public Force member." The Public Force was organized with the remaining members of the dismantled army.

The PRD, former political arm of the army, supported General Manuel Antonio Noriega until his removal by U.S. forces, after which the party's top leaders disowned the former officer. [passage omitted]

Former Papa Egoro Leaders Denounce Blades

PA1412043193 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 93 p A1

[Report by Ruben Dario Diaz]

[Text] Influential members of the Papa Egoro party have demanded "a new political and democratic convention" to unmask the traitorous leaders who have provoked complete anarchy in the party. The members also reported that party president Ruben Blades has "cheated" the Panamanian people, along with the local and international press.

Jose Eugenio Stoute, former national coordinator and the person who drafted Papa Egoro's government platform, reported that in the antidemocratic convention Blades arbitrarily changed the original platform by proposing to amend the Labor Code, allow the U.S. military bases to stay in Panama, privatize state enterprises, and

reduce the government's administration structure, which would result in mass dismissals of government employees. "Blades is proposing the working program demanded by International Financial Institutions (IFI's), which will divide the Panamanian people and pit them against one another in the electoral period. We disagree with this policy, which the young people do not accept," Stoute said.

Julio Berguido, former member of Papa Egoro's organization secretariat, said Blades presented a neoliberal program that responds to the IFI's demands. In so doing, Berguido said, Blades has shown his duplicity. Abroad he appears to be a nationalist; in Panama, however, he appears as a conservative and a neoliberal. He is authoritarian by nature. "There is an abyss between Blades and the Panamanian youth. He is a cheat and has not met the people's expectations with his presidential candidacy." Berguido said there is a need for a new democratic convention to publicly debate the working program that the Panamanian people demand. He also said that the party has lost 10,000 of its former 26,000 registered members. It currently has 16,000 members. That means Blades is leading Papa Egoro into "a catastrophe and an uncertain future in the May 1994 elections."

Rodrigo Aybar, former secretary for political affairs, also thinks a new convention should be convened as soon as possible with the participation of all active members to debate the government platform.

Finally, the political leaders, active Papa Egoro members, said Blades has betrayed the Panamanian people's interests and that his program is anything but nationalist.

Perez Balladares Leading Presidential Race

PA1312200893 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, presidential candidate of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) in the 1994 presidential elections, is the politician with the greatest support, according to a poll conducted for LA PRENSA by the Dichter & Neira consulting firm. The 4-5 December poll was conducted among 1,200 people nationwide. Most of the respondents had high school and university educations.

The survey revealed that the party with the greatest support among Panamanians is the PRD, while the poll also revealed the people will not vote again for their current legislators.

According to the poll, if the elections were held today, 23 percent of the Panamanian people would vote for Ernesto Perez Balladares; 20.5 percent for Ruben Blades of the Papa Egoro Movement; 10 percent for Guillermo Ford of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena); 8 percent for Mireya Moscoso de Gruber of the Arnulfist Party; 6 percent for Ricardo Arias Calderon of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]; and 4.1 percent for Ruben Dario Carles of Molirena. The survey showed that Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, Ford, and Arias Calderon each registered an increase in support of 3, 2, and 1.3 percent, respectively.

For 79 percent of the respondents, the future president of Panama must be a person with experience in government. Regarding the next president's virtues, 38 percent mentioned honesty, 8.7 percent noted work for the people, 8.3 percent integrity, and 6.3 percent responsibility.

The survey also showed that 65 percent of the respondents will not vote for their current legislators, while 19.1 percent said they would. The poll also revealed that the current legislators are less popular in the interior of the Republic than in Panama City. This trend is even higher among people between the ages of 18 and 29.

National Bank Manager Views Bank's Recovery

PA1412040293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0926 GMT 11 Dec 93

[By Luis Enrique Vasquez]

[Text] Panama City, 11 Dec (NOTIMEX)— Panama National Bank's (BNP) total assets in 1993 amounted to more than $2.5 billion, and its own portfolio reached $146 million, thus it remains among the 15 biggest banks in Latin America.

National Bank Manager Luis Horacio Moreno told NOTIMEX that BNP's recovery came after it recorded a $1.2 million deficit on 20 December 1989, when U.S. troops invaded the country.

He added that the official bank's own assets put it in first place among domestic banks and in second place among the 110 banks operating in the country. "We received a bank that was practically bankrupt with a capital deficit. Today capital amounts to $146 million, and we have reduced delinquency from $70 million to $20 million," the bank official added.

Nearly $45 million recovered to date corresponds to credits granted to private clients, who this year deposited at least $500 million in the BNP, according to BNP statistics. Moreno indicated that during the previous regime, the bank administrations granted "credits that were risky" or that did not have sufficient guarantees to individuals linked to the government. BNP technicians believe a large percentage of the delinquent portfolio is uncollectible so it is considered a loss.

"The BNP is perhaps in its best shape at this time. In addition to reducing the delinquent portfolio, we have increased liquidity, which previously was 9 percent and is now 55 percent," the official stressed.

He added that the BNP has funds available to deal with the demand for credit, which will not be influenced by politics, as occurred in the past.

In the past two years, the new BNP management initiated a process to modernize its 49 branches throughout the country and will soon automate the clearing house service which, by law, it provides to the 110 banks operating in the country. Regarding these functions, Moreno said the BNP will continue as a central bank because it is highly improbable that the U.S. dollar will stop circulating in Panama as legal currency.

The United States has not said that Panama will be unable to continue using that currency. Meanwhile, individuals in Panama insist on thoroughly analyzing the hypothetical expiration of the 1904 monetary agreement when the canal passes from Panamanian administration, he stressed.

The U.S.-Panamanian monetary agreement was signed to facilitate the construction of the canal and its subsequent administration by the United States. Although the agreement does not have an expiration date, local economists believe that once the canal passes into Panamanian hands, Washington might end the agreement.

"Many of us ask: Will Panama lose the opportunity to collect the (canal) tolls in dollars or to maintain the (Colon Free Zone) commerce, which is worth more than $10 billion? Will we have to convert them into Panamanian pesos or balboas?" Moreno said in conclusion.

Argentina

Menem, Alfonsin Sign Constitutional Reform Agreement

PY1312192593

[Editorial Report] Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish at 1500 GMT on 13 December broadcasts during its regular newscast a report on an agreement signed by President Carlos Menem and Radical Civic Union leader Raul Alfonsin on the constitutional reform.

The report says that the agreement was reached after "five hours of deliberations." According to the report the agreement has 10 points:

- "The post of chief of the cabinet was created";
- "Reduction of the presidential term from six to four years, with the possibility of reelection for another constitutional term";
- "The Executive Branch will not issue decrees of necessity and urgency on taxation and electoral matters, or on the political party system";
- "Direct election of president and vice president with runoff elections";
- "Direct election of the Buenos Aires mayor";
- "Modification of the system for designation of judges";
- "Public service control";
- "Elimination of the requirement that the president profess the Catholic faith";
- "A special majority for sanctioning electoral laws";
- "Direct election of three senators per province."

According to the report, President Menem said that "the agreement signed by the government and the UCR closes a difficult stage," and that "the election of convention delegates will be held as soon as possible."

The report quotes Alfonsin as having said that "a new political dialogue" will be based on the agreement, noting that "understanding is a step forward in the consolidation of democracy."

The report then quotes Deputy Jorge Yoma as having reported that "the Chamber of Deputies might debate the constitutional reform agreement" on 20 December.

Foreign Minister Di Tella Interviewed

PY1412014093 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Dec 93 Section 1 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella by Ana Gerschenson "aboard the Tango 04 airplane returning from Sao Paulo"; date not given]

[Text] [Gerschenson] Judging from events, is the settlement of the conflict over the Malvinas Islands progressing expeditiously?

[Di Tella] Four years ago islanders were elected on the basis of not holding any type of contact with Argentina. During the past elections, islanders were elected on the basis of not holding any type of contact "with the exception of fishing and petroleum." The key point is that we will reach a prompt normalization of our relations with them.

[Gerschenson] When?

[Di Tella] There is no doubt whatsoever that the normalization of commercial relations and communications will soon be assessed.

[Gerschenson] The British press published a report last week claiming that one of the largest oil basins in the world existed in the archipelago...

[Di Tella] The correct information is that the seismic surveys have not been conclusive. Other reports must follow. We may therefore have a more accurate impression after the next prospecting surveys.

[Gerschenson] It is being said that some islanders would prefer to establish refineries in Montevideo, for example...

[Di Tella] They may do as they please. Of course, if the petroleum project is implemented certain sectors in the geographical areas of Chubut and Santa Cruz will be mobilized. This is only natural.

[Gerschenson] Has a cooperation agreement been reached on this issue?

[Di Tella] Let us see. We might hold a meeting on petroleum early next year to review the formulas for cooperation. This might end either with a significant improvement—finding a formula within the umbrella agreement—or with an aggravation of the conflict.

[Gerschenson] What degree of aggravation?

[Di Tella] If we do not reach an agreement, we will legally obstruct [enervar] the entire petroleum development operation. We believe we have very good ways to prevent unilateral developments in the area.

[Gerschenson] After the previous fishing agreement, charges were leveled against the Foreign Ministry that it "gave in" to the Puerto Argentino government...

[Di Tella] What is it that some people are saying? Some people are saying that the British companies should be antagonized so that they will give in. With pressure we would simply manage to entirely lose the level of international trust we have, and the economic program would collapse in a matter of hours. It would be instantaneous. The so-called hard position, which is not hard, is criminal and idiotic for our interests.

[Gerschenson] May it be said that rapprochement gestures from the island are increasing?

[Di Tella] Yes, there are many signals, but I do not want to create an image that we are about to settle a 160-year-old conflict with this. It would be deluding the people. Nevertheless, our relations are better than ever—to say the truth, better than ever.

[Gerschenson] And relations with the United Kingdom are also better than ever?

[Di Tella] Relations with the United Kingdom are not at a 100 percent level. They are better than ever since 1982 at least.

[Gerschenson] Why not at a 100 percent level with the exception of the Malvinas Islands?

[Di Tella] The UK Government is raising objections to the Argentine purchase of airplanes and radars. During my recent visit to London this was the key issue of the bilateral talks, and an agreement was reached to reassess this problem.

[Gerschenson] Are they still afraid of us over the Malvinas war?

[Di Tella] Yes. Democratic changes in Argentina began 10 years ago. We are saying this is an irreversible process. All right, but it still sounds like something new to them. When it is no longer something new...

[Gerschenson] When will the radars be purchased?

[Di Tella] The alternative is either the United States or Israel. The entire issue now is whether the United States would accept their purchase from Israel. Nevertheless, I believe that the negotiations conducted by [Defense Minister Oscar] Camilion and those conducted by myself will have a happy ending before the end of the year.

[Gerschenson] Isn't Menem's visit to London taking place specifically for this reason?

[Di Tella] Of course, why else go to a country that is placing an arms embargo against us?

[Gerschenson] Despite the goodwill being demonstrated by Argentina?

[Di Tella] Our country's goodwill is not aimed at ingratiating ourselves with anyone, but because we believe it is advantageous. It is not advantageous for Argentina to spend billions of dollars on nuclear, chemical, or space weapons. It is not good business. We have therefore signed the Tlatelolco Treaty. We were admitted to the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) last week. And, God willing, we will join the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] next year.

[Gerschenson] Did the agreement recently signed in Asuncion settle the Pilcomayo River conflict?

[Di Tella] It was the end of a stage. The Pilcomayo River issue must be settled specifically on the basis of a basic agreement that will divide the waters in half. Concerning the anti-Argentine sentiment allegedly existing in Paraguay, it may exist in some sectors, and it may give rise to other situations. Nevertheless, this situation must not be inflated.

[Gerschenson] When will the conflict on the continental glaciers be settled?

[Di Tella] We are waiting for Congress to make a decision, because otherwise the Chileans will ask for arbitration. Either Congress makes a quick decision or—as we know—there will be a Chilean claim to settle this issue differently. Bearing in mind that the Chilean administration will complete its term on 11 March, it is very possible that during its final stage it will want to settle this issue.

[Gerschenson] What will happen if it is not discussed before March?

[Di Tella] We may see events that we will later regret.

[Gerschenson] Will Mercosur [Common Market of the South] receive a fatal wound if Lula [Workers Party leader Luiz Inacio da Silva] wins the elections in Brazil next year?

[Di Tella] It still remains to be seen if Lula will pursue a different policy from the one implemented by [Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Henrique] Cardoso. It still remains to be seen what Lula will do when the time comes. I trust very much that in 1995 there will be in Brazil an elected president who will be implementing the Mercosur reforms. No matter who wins.

[Gerschenson] Will Brazilian economic instability prompt the failure of the treaty?

[Di Tella] Mercosur is the most successful project that we have ever devised.

[Gerschenson] Nevertheless, what would be more beneficial for Argentina: NAFTA or Mercosur?

[Di Tella] Mercosur. To triple trade is not a minor issue or an aspiration. We have already done it. We will therefore protect the Brazilian market, as they will protect the Argentine market.

[Gerschenson] When will Argentine entry be formally requested?

[Di Tella] We are willing to discuss it tomorrow if it is seriously proposed to us. Nevertheless, it will not be possible to discuss with the NAFTA countries anyone's entry until 1995 or 1996. I believe Brazil's change of administration and the possibility of discussing NAFTA will occur simultaneously.

[Gerschenson] Will Mercosur be irreversible at that time?

[Di Tella] Yes, it definitely is irreversible.

Brazil

Military Ministers Claim 'There Is No Military Crisis'

PY1412004693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Dec 93 p A9

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Aeronautics Minister Lelio Viana Lobo and Navy Minister Admiral Ivan Serpa have assured O ESTADO that "there is no military crisis," and that the troops' salary problem is about to be solved. Admiral Arnaldo Liete Pereira, chief of the joint staff (EMFA), also asserted that there is no institutional crisis, but added that democracy must be perfected: "We want a more pure democracy," he said.

The former chief of the Southeastern Command, Reserve General Sebastiao Ramos de Castro, said that his main concern is the disparagement of Congress. In his opinion the lack of coordination between the three branches is harming the country. "We hope corporativism will not prevail in those institutions." In any case, Castro does not believe in the possibility of an uprising because in his opinion the commanders are aware of the problems causing unrest among the troops. Castro believes that the members of the military have and will continue to be the guarantors of democracy. He commented: "Discipline must be maintained despite all the dissatisfaction there is."

Gen. Castro, who was the superior of Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena, belongs to the group 31 March, one of the most active groups within the Armed Forces. There are 30 groups that question the current situation in the country, among them the Guararapes, Farroupilha, Independencia, and Araucaria groups.

Castro blurted out: "It is annoying that in the last stages of our careers, we earn less than does a porter at the Senate. No one is putting down porters, but it is an academic matter; it clashes with the salary hierarchy." According to another member of the military, what is even more annoying is that a four-star general earns less than 400,000 cruzeiros, the same salary level as a Senate driver. "We spend seven years of training in courses alone," he said.

In the opinion of Brigadier Sergio Xavier Ferolla, commander of the War College (ESG), the results of the investigations being carried out by the budget congressional investigating committee (CPI) and the decision regarding the appeal, filed in December 1992, by former President Fernando Collor against the possibility that the Senate might strip his political rights, cannot "end in nothing," because this could spark a wave of popular agitation that would be "very bad for the country." According to him, the commanders are aware of this unrest. "My fear is that the people, rather than the military, may rebel." In his opinion, if the uprising takes place due to the peoples' disagreement with the political developments, it would be hard for the military not to become involved. "However, I believe the situation is being handled properly, namely by the budget CPI."

Brigade General Gilberto Serra, chief of the Army Social Communications Center, denied any unrest within the barracks, commenting that the salary issue is being assessed "by the appropriate organs in the search for a solution." According to Serra, for the Army Ministry to function well in 1994 it needs at least 26.87 billion cruzeiros, according to the projections made in April, but the reviewed proposal dropped to 12.38 billion cruzeiros. Serra commented: "The ministry is determined to preserve the values it deems indispensable for it to be able to function during 1994."

The president of the Military Club, Reserve General Nilton Cerquira, recalled that six years ago the troops' situation was similar, with low salaries and unrest in the barracks. At that time Captain Luiz Fernando de Almeida invaded Apucarana City Hall with his soldiers to protest the situation.

Currently Almeida has the rank of major, has just graduated from the Army Command and General Staff School, and is in the same situation as various officers in other states, who have still not received the resources with which to return home. The Military Court sentenced Almeida to two years' imprisonment for having invaded Apucarana City Hall, but he filed an appeal with the Superior Military Court which reduced the sentence to six months' imprisonment with a right to suspension. As he served the sentence in freedom, it did not hinder his career.

'Army Opts for Democracy'

PY1312212993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—Army Chief of Staff General Benedito Onofre Bezerra Leonel said yesterday, in a speech greeting the officers promoted to the rank of brigadier general at the Army headquarters, that "discouragement, oversights, irresponsibility, and shady deals are not part of the foundations of a great nation."

The general stressed that the Army opts for democracy and termed the current situation "temporary." According to him, this situation represents "a period for purging the institutions."

Although admitting that "the current situation of absolute transparency puts Brazilians into brutal contact with a painful reality, which can be discouraging," the Army Chief of Staff warned that "reason must prevail over emotion." Gen. Bezerra Leonel said he was speaking on behalf of the Army, by delegation of Army Minister Zenildo de Lucena.

Government Will Overcome Crisis

PY1412025293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Dec 93 p 3

[Interview with Army Minister General Zenildo de Lucena by unidentified O GLOBO reporter on 9 December; place not given]

[Text] [O GLOBO] What does [Army Chief of Staff] General Leonel's speech mean?

[Lucena] He uttered words of confidence in the country, words that express his certainty that we will overcome this crisis, his certainty that we have leaders who are able to lead this country.

[O GLOBO] He said that military leaders reveal their leadership skills in moments of turbulence. Would that be the case now?

[Lucena] This was not exactly the meaning of his words. He meant that we must remain calm and vigilant, that we must be on the alert and be close to our troops.

[O GLOBO] How do you evaluate the current moment?

[Lucena] We are convinced that we have leaders who are able to administer Brazil well and overcome the crisis. This is what we think. We believe this crisis is just temporary.

[O GLOBO] Is Gen. Leonel's speech related to cuts in the military sector budget?

[Lucena] No, it is not. This is an internal issue, to be discussed within government circles.

[O GLOBO] Is the Army concerned about the Congressional Investigating Committee on the budget, the clarification of the corruption scheme, and the punishment of those found guilty?

[Lucena] Certainly, this is what I have been saying. And I have also been saying that we have institutions capable of administering the country well. As a matter of fact, we have qualified leaders. I hope however, that those proven guilty are really punished.

[O GLOBO] What is your opinion about the movement of retired officers who are in favor of a military coup?

[Lucena] Currently our retired officers have the right to express their opinions.

[O GLOBO] What is your opinion about the Federal Supreme Court decision about former President Collor?

[Lucena] This is a problem to be solved by the Judicial Branch. The three branches are independent, but as a Brazilian citizen I was disappointed.

'Environment of Revolt' Prevails

PY1412114393 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Dec 93 p A9

[Article by Gabriel Nogueira]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—Retired General Nilton Cerqueira, president of the Military Club, believes an environment of revolt and dissatisfaction prevails in the Armed Forces as a result of low salaries and the lack of resources to modernize equipment, in addition to disbelief in the three government branches. He said control over the troops is still in the hands of the military ministers but "no one knows for how long." Gen. Cerqueira said a spirit "willing to accept a call" already prevails in the institutions. He added "only a catalyzing element" like the recovery of former President Fernando Collor's political rights or the punishment of only "two or three deputies" by the budget CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] is needed. He said: "There is the feeling that the politicians betrayed the nation."

Cerqueira indicated there are 400 captains who went to the Officers Training School in Rio de Janeiro for more than six months and have not yet received funds to go back home. He said: "The country cannot go on with this Congress when we see the theft of millions of dollars from the Treasury while military families go through hard times." He added that not all reports get to active-duty commanders for fear of being punished, while reserve officers are informed because they are more like friends than superiors. He added: "There is dissatisfaction not only among officers but also among NCO's.

On 9 December, Aeronautics Minister Lelio Viana Lobo asked for more resources and better working conditions in a speech during the friendship luncheon of the military ministers with President Itamar Franco in Brasilia. He talked about discipline and order among the soldiers who do not hold strikes or public demonstrations and get no compensation for overtime. General Lobo said that despite this he trusts the problems will be overcome. He concluded by saying: "It is also true that the people's awareness will wake up to the fact that this will only occur if there are appropriately equipped and trained Armed Forces.

Low Pay No Cause for 'Insubordination'

PY1412023793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Navy Minister Ivan Serpa has stated that the charges of corruption in Congress are positive. Minister Serpa presided over the Coast Guard graduation ceremony today in Rio de Janeiro.

Serpa, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the AI-5 [Institutional Act No. 5], said that democracy in Brazil is doing very well and that it is up to the Brazilian people to safeguard it. According to the minister, each and every person must contribute and must not evade his or her duties.

In Serpa's opinion the wave of corruption charges in the national Congress is positive because it reveals an interest in clarifying matters and in removing from public office those who do not deserve it.

As for the dissatisfaction among military members over their salaries, Serpa said that it is not a privilege, as no one likes to earn little, but that among the military dissatisfaction does not lead to indiscipline or insubordination.

New Culture Minister Appointed; Franco on Privacy

PY1412022193 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] The new culture minister, whose name was just announced in Rio de Janeiro by presidential spokesman Francisco Baker, is attorney Luiz Roberto do Nascimento Silva. The new minister was born in Rio de Janeiro, is 41 years old, has been a consultant for Embrafilme [Brazilian Film Company] and Concine [National Cinema Council], and has lectured at universities. During a brief interview he asserted that with a lot of creativity, cultural activities are possible with scarce resources.

Baker has also just disclosed some comments by President Itamar Franco regarding the incidents involving journalists in Juiz de Fora yesterday. According to Baker, Franco told him he could easily remain isolated, but prefers to honor his commitment to democratic and political opening.

Baker said that the president does not object to being photographed on the streets, but that he would like journalists to respect him and not invade private property.

Right now President Franco is meeting with Justice Minister Mauricio Correia to make the last adjustments to the amendments containing suggestions for the constitutional revision, which the federal government is going to submit to Congress tomorrow.

According to the minister, there are two packages of constitutional amendments, with about 200 proposals referring to public servants' job stability and to the state monopoly in the oil and telecommunications fields.

The most polemic proposals are those submitted by the Finance Ministry designed to streamline the administrative apparatus. This package of proposals will be submitted to Congress tomorrow by the government leaders in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies.

Supreme Court 'Bitterly' Criticized on Collor Case

PY1312215193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—The political temperature increased yesterday to its maximum level since the conception of the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] on the budget mafia, becoming a clash among the different government branches. Hostile acts were traded among the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.

In one of the most bitter criticisms, Army Minister Zenildo de Lucena, with the support of President Itamar Franco and Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira, chief of the Armed Forces Staff [EMFA], harshly criticized the Supreme Federal Court [STF] decision to transfer to a lower court the political future of former President Fernando Collor. "As a Brazilian citizen I was completely disappointed," De Lucena said, in an unprecedented attack by the Army minister against the Supreme Federal Court.

The EMFA chief spoke in the same vein, expressing his indignation over the transfer of the decision to the Superior Court of Appeals (STJ): "We the military would never do that. We would always decide at a higher level. As a citizen, I thought the Supreme Court should not have yielded the judicial writ for him (Collor). I was disappointed," the admiral said, at the end of the commencement ceremony for generals at Army Headquarters.

To round up the set of attacks against the STF, during the luncheon with officers of the Armed Forces, and in the presence of the four military ministers, President Itamar Franco said: "We must bear in mind that we cannot uphold an acquired right in a case of injustice," the president said.

On a day with a lot of tension among the government branches, the Judicial Branch adopted a decision that caused irritation at Planalto Palace. It overruled a provisional measure issued by President Franco restricting the issuing of injunctions by judges so as to prevent the paralysis of the court system. And Congress did not lag behind: The board of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the largest party in the Legislative Branch, decided to propose that lifting bank secrecy, which had been proposed for the other two government branches, be extended to the members of the Judicial Branch as well.

Central Bank Unifies Trade, Tourism Dollar Exchange Rates

PY1412005593 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Beginning today the Central Bank has unified the trade and tourism dollar exchange rates. From now on the so-called parallel dollar exchange rate will accompany the trade dollar rate.

[Begin commentator Joelmir Beting recording] In putting an end to the tourism dollar the government is fulfilling the promise of unifying the official dollar rate. This is one more step toward the implementation of the future general economic index—the real value unit—which will use as a reference the daily trade dollar rate.

The new index will probably be implemented after the Carnival holiday if, by then, Congress has already approved the fiscal reform.

Meanwhile, the financial market continues to ignore the parallel dollar rate. Investors currently prefer to purchase fixed profit papers as a result of the new increase in interest rates implemented by the Central Bank itself. [end recording]

Escaped Drug Trafficker Abidiel Rabelo Recaptured

PY1412021493 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] Members of the Federal Police have arrested drug trafficker Abidiel Rabelo in the downtown area of Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul. Five months ago Rabelo got away when he was being taken from the prison building to a dentist in Sao Paulo.

Abidiel Rabelo, who was residing in Campo Grande with his wife and four children, disclosed this afternoon that when he fled from the Sao Paulo prison he headed straight to the swamp area, where he stayed at the Karanda Hotel, and then went to Campo Grande, where he had been living.

In addition to Rabelo, the police arrested his brother-in-law Iremar de Oliveira and the owner of the Karanda Hotel, Elias Cabrita de Lima. The Federal Police have known for some time now that the latter is also engaged in drug trafficking.

According to Carlos Geraldi, social communications advisor for the Federal Police superintendency in Campo Grande, drug trafficker Abidiel Rabelo will be transferred to Sao Paulo within the next 48 hours.

Chile

Military Authorities Congratulate President-Elect Frei

PY1312225893 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] This morning authorities from the Armed Forces and the Carabineros paid a protocol visit to President-elect Eduardo Frei, who will assume the presidency on 11 March.

The first to arrive was General Augusto Pinochet, accompanied by members of the Army high command, among them Army Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar, who was recently ratified in his post.

Gen. Pinochet was the only one who declined to comment on the approximately 15-minute meeting with President-elect Eduardo Frei.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How was your meeting with the president-elect, general?

[Pinochet] [answer indistinct]

[Reporter] But, general... [end recording]

Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch [Navy commander], Air General Ramon Vega [Air Force commander], and Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange arrived later on. They all agreed to chat with the media.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] We have come on a protocol visit to pay our respects. Therefore the subjects raised during the meeting with the senator, with the president-elect, are obviously confidential. That is all I can tell you.

[Reporter] What about your being confirmed in your post? Have you discussed this yet?

[Martinez] You are very kind. Thank you so much.

[Vega] I believe he has a great responsibility and we must obviously, for the benefit of all Chileans, wish him all the best. This is why we have paid him this first protocol visit, representing the Chilean Air Force.

[Reporter] Did you discuss, as when President Patricio Aylwin was elected, whether or not you will remain as Carabineros director?

[Stange] No. No, because this is not the appropriate moment. A delegation from the Carabineros Generals Corps paid him a protocol visit on behalf of the entire institution. This is a protocol visit to the newly elected authority.

[Reporter] Are you thinking of placing your post at the president-elect's disposal?

[Stange] We will see, later on. There is time for that, there is plenty of time. [end recording]

President-elect Eduardo Frei will continue to receive visits throughout the afternoon. The arrival of other ambassadors and Christian Democratic Party senators has been announced.

It was also disclosed that around 1800 President-elect Eduardo Frei will issue a communique assessing his activities and the visits received today.

Latin American Presidents Congratulate Eduardo Frei

PY1312114293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1217 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Santiago, 12 Dec (AFP-NA)—Spokesman Carlos Figueroa has reported that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and Argentine President Carlos Menem today congratulated Chilean President-elect Eduardo Frei

Ruiz-Tagle, who on Saturday was elected president by a majority of almost 60 percent. [passage omitted]

NHK Interviews Frei on Hopes for NAFTA Participation

OW1312123893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 2331 GMT 12 Dec 93

["Exclusive" interview with President-elect Frei by unidentified NHK correspondent on 12 December; place not given; recorded from the "NHK News" program—first paragraph is introduction by NHK announcer]

[Text] Chilean President-elect Frei granted an interview to NHK on 12 December. During the interview, the president-elect showed strong confidence that Chile would be the first South American nation to participate in the NAFTA, or the North American Free Trade Agreement, which will take effect in January next year. While disclosing that Chile was continuing frequent unofficial negotiations with the United States on its participation in the NAFTA, he showed strong confidence that Chile would be a NAFTA member in the near future.

[Begin recording in Spanish, translated from Japanese subtitles] [Frei] As the U.S. president has mentioned, Chile meets the qualifications for joining the NAFTA. I will begin negotiations with the United States immediately after I take office and will work for Chile to become a NAFTA member. [end recording]

Also, concerning the issue of Chile joining APEC, or the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, next year, the president-elect noted that by taking the opportunity of becoming an APEC member, Chile would strengthen relations with Japan, its largest trade partner, and other Asian countries. In this way, he stressed that Chile would attach importance to its relations with Asian countries while also aiming to participate in the NAFTA.

Frei was elected as the new Chilean president by winning more than 50 percent of the votes in a presidential election held on 11 December. This was the first such election since Chile was transformed from a military regime to a civil administration. Frei will be officially sworn in as president next March.

Frei's Possible Ministers Identified

PY1112232693 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 93 p 2

[Article by "special correspondent" Gustavo Poch]

[Text] When I went across Constitution Plaza I looked at La Moneda Palace out of the corner of my eye, and then entered the Carrera Hotel. The second floor of this luxurious building is where the electoral campaign headquarters of presidential candidate Eduardo Frei is located. It is an authentic electoral bunker that offers foreign correspondents all the necessary information about the life and proposals of the Christian Democratic leader who is the undeniable successor to President Patricio Aylwin.

What I was looking for could not be found in booklets. Some official sources who refused to identify themselves showed me the names of the people who will make up Frei's team after his eventual victory tomorrow. The list of the ones to be rewarded by "The New Times" (this is the slogan of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy leader) includes Genaro Arriagada Herrera, 50, who is the creator of the "Eduardo Frei phenomenon."

Arriagada is the intellectual, the ideologist of the Christian Democratic Party, who is eagerly awaiting a reward after being put aside by Patricio Aylwin and his supporters within the party and the government.

My informers said the Mexicanization of the Christian Democratic Party (an open allusion to the strong influence of the party apparatus) created anger in Arriagada and his followers, who worked hard to create an alternative to Aylwin's reelection. Arriagada, an expert on issues about the rough relations between civilians and the military and on the metamorphosis of Latin American leftist groups, is the future minister secretary general of government.

The second name is that of businessman Edmundo Perez Yoma, the son of an interior minister under the administration of Eduardo Frei's father, who was murdered by the leftists of the People's Brigade. He currently is the electoral campaign command's executive secretary. He is the inventor of the moderate image to some, monotonous to others, of the Christian Democratic candidate.

Perez Yoma, who was aware that his man is a bad speaker, an eminent representative of the laconic and not very talkative style, and not much of a representative for someone who presents himself as the motor for change, has tried to moderate the gestures of a career businessman in a foreign corporation that conspired against the electoral success of the government candidate.

Perez Yoma expects to get the Defense or Interior Ministry. The next man is Carlos Figueroa, 60, former ambassador in Buenos Aires and another aide to Eduardo Frei's father. He is a successful lawyer who was the director of press and propaganda for Patricio Aylwin. He now hopes to become either minister of interior or defense.

Fourth is Ricardo Lagos, a socialist and a staunch adversary of Eduardo Frei in the primaries for the presidential candidacy in the coalition.

Lagos was the education minister under Patricio Aylwin. He will be on Frei's team, not because of ideological or personal affinities between the two, but because this was established in the agreement that ended the struggle with Frei, and also because the Socialist Party is by far the second strongest force in the coalition. Therefore, the

reward in this case will be big. Ricardo Lagos will be the foreign minister of the second coalition government.

The second nomination within the Christian Democratic-Socialist pact is Alvaro Garcia, an expert economist (I was told he is a technocrat) of broad militancy in the Socialist Party. My informers said he is moderate in his proposals, and added that there is no room in Chile for economic measures based on extremist ideologies because orthodox socialism surrendered a long time ago to the arms of social democracy. The doors of the Economy Ministry are open to Garcia.

The last member of the cabinet will be a Chicago boy [preceding word in English], economist Juan Villarzu, 48, a former aide to General Augusto Pinochet, who held that post due to the ambivalent position of the Christian Democratic Party in the first years of the military government. My informers said Villarzu will get the Finance Ministry because what counts in that position is a technician with insuperable ability.

Same Number of Senators Elected From CPPD, Opposition

PY1212030193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] After taking a look at the figures that the Interior Ministry just released on the legislative elections, we can conclude that in the nine districts that elected senators, the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, CPPD, obtained nine senators, while the Unity for Progress of Chile, led by Arturo Alessandri Besa, also elected nine senators.

The composition of forces in the Senate following the 1993 elections will now be as follows:
Radical Party: one
Independent Democratic Union: three
National Renewal: four
Socialist Party: four
Party for Democracy: four
Independents: three
Christian Democratic Party: 13
Appointed [by defunct military regime]: eight

2d Army Division 'Ablaze'; Short Circuit Blamed

PY1312203593 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Dec 93

[Text] A huge fire has just broken out at the headquarters of the 2nd Army Division in eastern Santiago. Jorge Abualba will now give us an account of what is happening at that site:

[Begin live relay] Good afternoon, Eduardo. It is now 1402 and the 2nd Army Division headquarters, located on the corner of Santa Maria Avenue and Carolina Rabat Street in Vitacura district, are ablaze.

All the fire companies of Santiago have been working for the past 30 minutes trying to control this huge fire, which has started to destroy the area where the offices and officers' mess are located.

The atmosphere is really strained here and the temperature has risen several degrees due to the heat wave caused by the fire. This is giving the firemen trouble in doing their job, but the fire is gradually being put out.

According to preliminary information obtained here, the fire was sparked by a short circuit. This remains, however, to be determined by experts from the Santiago Fire Company.

The premises have all been evacuated and only what could be taken out quickly was removed due to the speed with which the fire spread. The fire has affected some 250 square meters of the premises.

Two Policemen Wounded in Attack on Barracks

PY1312115393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1354 GMT 12 Dec 93

[Text] Santiago, 12 Dec (EFE)—Police sources reported today, Sunday 12 December, that two Carabineros (militarized police) were wounded by unidentified people who fired automatic weapons at a barrack in southern Santiago.

The sources stated that the attack took place at 0245 GMT in the Santiago neighborhood of La Granja, some 15 km south of La Moneda Presidential Palace. It was staged by a group of individuals who fired at the barrack from a passing car.

The wounded policemen were identified as Carlos Escobar Cepeda and Carlos Zapata Grecci, who have been hospitalized and are out of danger, the sources reported.

The attack took place at the conclusion of the presidential and congressional elections in which Christian Democratic Party candidate Eduardo Frei emerged as the winner. A few hours before the attack, bombs were detonated at a Santiago school and a high-tension tower.

In phone calls to Santiago mass media, the ultraleftist Lautaro Youth Front claimed the bombings.

Colombia

Minister Interviewed on Trade Agreement With Chile

PA1012133093 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos by Dario Arizmendi; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] The great news is that President Cesar Gaviria and his Chilean colleague President Patricio Aylwin have signed a complementary trade agreement in Chile. Dr. Juan Manuel Santos, the foreign trade minister and presidential designate, was the main promoter of this initiative. Mr. Minister, congratulations and good morning.

[Santos] Good morning, Dario.

[Arizmendi] How would you explain to Colombians this important complementary agreement in simple and practical terms?

[Santos] Basically, it is an agreement that will eliminate duties on nearly all trade between Colombia and Chile within five years. It also integrates the economies of the two countries and gives Colombian exporters access to a growing market—the Chilean market, which is perhaps the most dynamic market in Latin America. There also were agreements in other areas, such as services and the resolution of disputes. I believe it is a very important step within the Latin American integration process.

[Arizmendi] What Chilean products will have access to the Colombian market?

[Santos] All Chilean products except for some leather goods. We excluded a very small percentage of exports from the two countries mainly because Chile is facing fiscal problems, specifically with petroleum and coal. These products were excluded from the agreement because Chileans have to import them anyway and because the duties levied on them constitute a significant portion of that country's fiscal revenues.

[Arizmendi] The agreement goes into effect on 1 January 1994 and will last five years. Do you really think that at that time all conditions required to start implementing a comprehensive free trade agreement will have been met?

[Santos] The agreement will go into effect on 1 January 1994. Therefore, in five years trade with Chile will be completely duty-free, as is the case today with Venezuela. This is a permanent agreement; it will not expire. This is why this agreement is important. The two nations' production sectors are already making contacts and setting up businesses to increase trade, which, at present, is limited and fails to represent more than 2 percent of the exports of both Colombia and Chile. We are very hopeful and certain that this will happen because the economies complement each other very well; trade will then multiply in a couple of years.

[Arizmendi] What figures are we talking about? What are the expectations for 1994?

[Santos] I believe that by 1995 we can at least triple our current trade with Chile.

[Arizmendi] What does the trade amount to today? And how much could it be increased?

[Santos] Currently, it amounts to about 160 million [currency not specified], and we could well reach 300-350 million in a couple of years.

[Arizmendi] Is there a degree of (?apprehension) surrounding the signing of a commitment assumed by Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela within the Group of Three [G-3] because of the future change of government in Venezuela? Could Venezuela modify its policy, as is feared and as President-elect Rafael Caldera has announced?

[Santos] I do not think so. First, President-elect Caldera called President Gaviria in Chile. It was a friendly conversation during which the former reiterated the importance of integration. President-elect Caldera's main advisers have not only been informed, but they also have participated, in one way or another, in the G-3 negotiation process that ended on 4 December. Moreover, the production and political sectors are so committed to this integration process that there is no looking back. I have no doubt that this process will continue and that President-elect Caldera will not stop or reverse it.

[Arizmendi] But, Mr. Minister, do you not think that this first international decision of President-elect Caldera is a bad sign?

[Santos] What decision?

[Arizmendi] Talking about... [pauses] the start of the implementation of the G-3 free trade zone was frozen for at least three months.

[Santos] No, the start of the implementation has not been frozen at all. The process is advancing with no problems whatsoever. We, the ministers, will put the agreement together and sign it, and the presidents will sign it in February 1994. This will not be (?stopped).

EPL Movement Not To Participate in 1994 Elections

PA1312180093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 13 Dec 93

[From the "TV Today" newscast]

[Text] The Hope, Peace, and Liberty Movement [former Popular Liberation Army, EPL, guerrillas], one of the actors in the bloody Uraba conflict announced tonight it will not participate in the [1994] elections.

Meanwhile, the first 150 infantrymen, members of the Special Brigade, arrived in Uraba today to control public order. From searching for Pablo Escobar to combating guerrillas, this is the change for these 150 soldiers, members of the Military Police, who arrived this morning in Apartado from Medellin to reinforce the Banana Plan. The infantrymen, who were members of the Search Bloc for Pablo Escobar, will be charged with securing all the villages and banana plantations where there have been massacres and murders. Before beginning the operation they will be retrained in military

control operations and in counterinsurgency operations adapted to the banana region. Likewise, in the next three months three more police units, totalling 90 police officers, will be deployed to Currulao, Candelaria, and San Juan de Uraba to reinforce the rural patrols.

Defense Minister To Leave Intensive Care Ward

PA1412043693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 93

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Chayo Clinic in Santa Fe de Bogota reported today that Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda will leave the intensive care ward within the next 24 hours. In about 10 days, Pardo will return home, where he will stay for an estimated two-month recovery.

Paraguay

Army Commander Gives Speech With 'Political Tone'

PY1312204493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Dec 93 p 10

[Report by "special correspondents" Ignacio Martinez and Juan Ramon Avila]

[Text] Juan de Mena—Speaking in this town last Saturday, Army Commander Lino Cesar Oviedo promised to build one school per year in honor of his mother. The controversial military man made a speech that at times had a clearly political tone, like a political campaign speech. In addressing Cavalry horsemen, he said that the Armed Forces would always support humble peasants. A large number of state vehicles could be seen at the meeting.

Oviedo made the speech during part of the ceremonies in Juan de Mena for graduating school students and to dedicate the airstrip lighting system, electric power supply system, and drinking water supply system.

Oviedo began his speech by recalling his late mother, noting that the best way to remember her is "to build over her ashes the monuments of her dreams: schools for children, to whom she dedicated her entire life."

He said that he and his brothers have committed themselves to building one school per year in honor of their mother. "We have committed ourselves to silently building one school per year, in honor of the immortal memory of our beloved mother, so that humble children who have no school may have one, and so that our country may defeat poverty."

One School Per Year

"For the Oviedo-Silva family, 11 December is a day of great emotion. We commemorate three events. The first event, today, is the birthday of my beloved, immortal mother. To honor her, his excellency the president has graced me with his presence. Before she died she told me: Son, if you want to save Paraguay from poverty, you should build a school, at least one per year."

Addressing the president, Oviedo said that School No. 2,921 had been built to pay tribute to his mother, "so that these humble children might become the future of our Paraguay." He added that "with intelligence it is possible to defeat poverty and poor health conditions, because people will be able to make their own decisions, an objective that is so dear to all humans."

Ignorance is the Worst Misfortune

"Ignorance and poor health conditions are the worst misfortunes for human beings. In this place I recall my fellow town residents asking me 'why should we till the land if we have no roads, and what hopes can we have if we cannot even overcome ignorance, if we cannot even take the fruits of our sacrifice, our products, to a consumer market?'

"Today, Your Excellency the President, you are dedicating not only a school, but are also bringing happiness to six colonies with roads and electric power. I am sure, as a humble peasant today put it—he was moved by his feelings, and his syntax may have been rather poor, but he spoke with all his heart—that you are fulfilling the promises you made during your political campaign before being elected president."

He promised to cooperate with Wasmosy in the satisfactory completion of his presidential term. "We are your humble assistants, and we will put forth all our efforts, loyalty, and devotion in helping you complete an excellent 1993-98 term of office. The Oviedo-Silva family recognizes, appreciates, and acknowledges your gesture, Your Excellency the President. We know the many tasks you have to perform, and you are dedicating this Saturday especially to us and to these humble peasants, who have always had hope in your words."

In another part of his speech, Oviedo said that the dreams and aspirations of peasants are coming true. "In forgotten colonies and towns which have been sidelined without roads and schools and without electric power, today, a few months after the beginning of your term, Your Excellency the President, there is fulfillment. We are humble, grateful, sincere, and loyal people. Today the hearts of these humble people have once again been conquered, and we, the members of the Oviedo-Silva family, acknowledge our eternal gratitude and our eternal loyalty yesterday, today, and always."

Armed Forces Will Always Be With Peasants

The military man also promised to work day and night to fulfill his parents' wishes "so that the children who have no schools may have schools and a decent life, much better than we had. I feel proud to be a peasant who was born in a humble house, and I feel proud to be with

peasants, and also with Your Excellency the President. I am proud that you, a civilian, are our commander in chief."

Oviedo also addressed Cavalry horsemen, to whom he said that the Armed Forces will support the peasants. "The Armed Forces will never forget them, because the Armed Forces are made up of humble people, peasants, Paraguayan people's children. In all the places where humble people have settled, even if this be in the middle of the woods, we will help them build our beautiful country," Oviedo said in Juan de Mena, his hometown.

Peru

Chilean Aircraft Violates Airspace; Forced To Land

PA1312191493 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 93

[From the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast]

[Text] A Chilean military aircraft strayed from Air Group No. 8, of Santiago, Chile, and was intercepted by two Peruvian Air Force fighter planes when it violated Peruvian airspace in the past hours. According to the report, the BP-34 aircraft, carrying registration number 402, made a technical landing in Guayaquil and was to continue directly to Santiago, Chile. Nevertheless, when it entered Peruvian airspace on an unauthorized route, it was forced to land. When this aircraft, white with a blue strip on both sides of the fuselage, strayed from Air Group No. 8, it was escorted by two Peruvian Air Force military aircraft.

Returns to Chile

PA1412025193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 93

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] A Chilean Navy airplane that Peruvian fighter bombers forced to land at Jorge Chavez International Airport for violating Peruvian airspace yesterday returned to its country today. The plane was forced to land when it flew outside of its authorized route. After it landed the crew members gave their explanations and were taken to the Peruvian Air Force officers residential unit in La Molina, where they spent the night. They traveled to their country today.

Uruguay

Lacalle Confirms He Will Not Run in Elections

PY1412003493 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Dec 93 p 7

[Text] President Luis Alberto Lacalle has confirmed that he will not be a candidate for any office in the next elections.

In comments made yesterday, during an extensive interview in the radio program "New Times for All" moderated by Neber Araujo, Lacalle also said that he does not have a favorite presidential candidate for the Herreraist Movement [National Party Faction].

On this issue Lacalle also referred to those who believe the candidate must be "a real Herreraist" by saying that the current Herreraism "is not the Herreraism of Luis Alberto de Herrera, which is something of the past" but rather a point for consensus. Lacalle added: "I did not vote for Herrera, as when he died I was 17 years of age; I am therefore the first to avoid becoming involved in the battles of the past."

He added that Herreraism "was a movement created in a cumulative manner, through consensus between people who joined earlier and later. No one was asked when they joined; it was something done by avalanche."

Lacalle pointed out without any sense of false shame that he felt responsible for that avalanche, and that when the time comes to elect the movement's presidential candidate his opinion will thus have more influence than the opinions of others.

Asked when this decision would be made, Lacalle said it would be made early next year at the Herreraist Convention, which is made up of 385 delegates.

Lacalle Holds News Conference in Beijing

PY1312131693 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 4 Dec 93 p 8

[Report by special correspondent Daniel Herrera Lussich from Beijing]

[Text] "I have been informed that an agreement within the Uruguay Round of GATT is about to be reached." This was stated by Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle during a news conference held in one of the ample and luxurious halls, full of history, of the official Dai Yu Tai guest house. He gave an optimistic account on his seven-day official visit during which he toured the main PRC coastline cities from south to north. It was also learned, almost simultaneously, that [Foreign Minister Sergio] Abreu, who joined Lacalle 24 hours ago after a visit to Japan, will travel to Geneva in response to a special invitation for an urgent and significant meeting, in his capacity as president of the Uruguay Round negotiations, called by U.S. negotiator Mickey Kantor and EC negotiator Leon Britten.

Assessing his visit which ends tomorrow, Lacalle said: "We are looking toward the Pacific because that is where the future lies. Our mission—which has obtained important achievements—also has the great purpose of opening the doors for the private sector, and we have done just that." Lacalle recalled that the Bank of China (the equivalent of Uruguay's Bank of the Republic and Central Bank, in a country with 1.2 billion inhabitants) will establish a branch in Montevideo. He also stressed

the announcement by Jiang Zemin that custom tariffs will be reduced and that joint ventures will be established, foreseeing partnerships that will start a project in one country and finish it in the other. "This is a different way to safeguard the permanent advantages of the exchange."

[Herrera Lussich] What conclusions can be reached following your talks with China's leading politicians?

[Lacalle] China is going through a period of regaining its full power. Maybe this is the result of the opening and the prosperity that brings a renewed feeling of security—if that word may be used for a 4,000-year-old nation. This is an emerging nation. It is emerging right in front of Japan and this entire zone. China is becoming increasingly important and has ambitions of becoming more prominent in the international arena. And I don't harbor the slightest doubt that China still has a very narrow criterion on this ambition. There are still talks about the Third World and under-developed nations. There is no doubt, however, that China is self-conscious of its renewed importance and that this will be decisive when the time for the new world order arrives.

[Herrera Lussich] From a political viewpoint, President, what is the outcome of this visit to China?

[Lacalle] In 1988 Uruguay chose to associate itself diplomatically with this nation. Our country has pursued this course politically, as a state policy. This policy does not represent an alternative to our trade relations with Taiwan. I believe important political agreements have been reached. Our country has specifically pursued a positive policy by supporting, for example, China's entry into the GATT and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] so that they make a commitment to the international system. It is better to have them within the system—and not outside the system.

[Herrera Lussich] From a trade viewpoint, please tell us about your visit?

[Lacalle] This question may be answered at two levels. The first is that we already have an important trade relationship and we must enhance it and increase it. This is appropriate and relatively possible. The second, through joint ventures, is something new. Manufacturing will begin in China and be completed in free trade zones or in Uruguay. This will involve the establishment of a Bank of China branch office—the first in South America—in Montevideo and the transfer of wool technology by Uruguayan producers. Everything leads us to assume that there is significant space for a more elaborate relationship. Rather than a customer who purchases and another customer who sells, joint ventures will be established for the prosperity of the two countries.

[Herrera Lussich] Following the Tiannamen Square events and all the opening process experienced by China, how does China view Uruguay's current political situation?

[Lacalle] The Uruguayan ambassador to this country has told me that a Chinese Communist Party delegation will possibly visit us next year. I think this might be very important because, when they begin to compare their experiences with those of their colleagues in our country, they will discover a large number of disagreements.

I think this is the most important factor, but of course we also have disagreements with countries with no democratic origin or countries which have other forms of legitimacy, but there is no doubt that there is a common denominator in countries which are developing in the current world which involves economic opening, opening of the minds, and greater possibilities for the development of the human being through the exercise of his own liberty. And not only in economic terms. There is no doubt that the economic reform initiated by Mr. Deng Xiao Ping has yielded really surprising results.

[Herrera Lussich] Your visit to China and that of Uruguayan ministers to Malaysia indicate an Uruguayan offensive toward that region of the world. Basically, what are we focusing on?

[Lacalle] We are not focusing on staying with Mercosur [Common Market of the South] alone. You know that our trade is divided in halves: one half for our neighbors and the other half for the rest of the world. The presence of the Pacific Ocean countries is becoming increasingly important. Why did Clinton, a few days ago, go to Seattle to call all countries of the Pacific coast to a meeting? Because the future lies with that part of the world. So our country, within its relative importance, cannot be absent from a similar process. We have increased the number of personnel in our embassy because we believe there is much to be done there now.

[Herrera Lussich] Does this mean a greater Uruguayan government presence there?

[Lacalle] To a certain extent. It is true that we must technically improve the government presence there. Having opened the door, the government must take a side step to let the private sector move in. If no one goes in, it means there is a lack of coordination or that there is no interest. The final aggressiveness to establish the game, to obtain results, is typically private. The government must protect, follow, and create the environment.

[Herrera Lussich] Has it been said that each country receives a guarantee, an endorsement with each presidential visit?

[Lacalle] Of course. And in a place of the world like this, where trade decisions are still made by state companies, it is different from Spain, France, or England. Here the order to sell hides or to purchase things goes through the president. Of course the political presence and will have different values, if it is to be achieved.

[Herrera Lussich] What instruments does the government have to motivate the private sector to form joint ventures?

[Lacalle] None. We provide what we think is necessary, but each is free to choose. Once the information is obtained, that is the end of what the government can do. Of course there is an investment security treaty, like the one that was signed, but that is as far as we can go. Everything depends on companies and enterprises.

[Herrera Lussich] Recalling that Foreign Minister Abreu arrived yesterday from Japan, can we say that the panorama has somewhat changed just 13 days before the end of the Uruguay Round?

[Lacalle] I have been informed that we are near an agreement. Do not forget that the European-U.S. controversy was planned. They seem to have found a common denominator. On that subject, we are mere supporters of the decision they reach. On the 13th day we will know for sure what to do. Surely it will not be what Mr. Iglesias thought while launching the Uruguay Round, but the world was not the same then as it is now. We will have a final result of the Uruguay Round and we will assess it in due time.

Army Unrest Over Reorganization Measures Viewed

PY1312172293 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 2 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Military sources have reported to BUSQUEDA that the Army commander in chief's decision to reorganize this Armed Forces branch and implement personalized commands, added to the uncertainty created by rumors on the transference of several units and services, has created widespread unrest among military personnel.

Lieutenant General Daniel Garcia, the Army commander in chief, shortly after being installed decided to transfer the Veterinary and the Remount Services to Los Cerrillos by mid-December. Currently, these services are headquartered near the Blandengues Regiment.

This decision was followed by rumors about studies, requested by Garcia, for the future transference to Toledo of the Infantry Battalion No. 13 and the Infantry Battalion No. 15 ("Armored") as well as the transference to the "9-February area" in the Casavalle region, of the Management and Geography services. All this increased further the unrest already reigning among officers.

Garcia plans to continue the reorganization process he began when he was installed in August by eliminating some units, merging others, and selling buildings and land in order to rationalize the Army's functions and to increase its savings and potential.

"In an institution used to very few changes, news of a possible transference from one barrack to the other causes unrest," one source said, adding that this situation "does not represent a discipline problem."

An officer said: "It costs a great deal to build garrisons and they are an affective part of the institution. What scares us is losing them, not transferring them." Another officer said: "There is uneasiness at all levels because the intermediate commands are not informed. This creates uncertainty and rumors."

Another source said this feeling was strong in the Cavalry which comprises 10 battalions and about 3,500 men. They said the intermediate command protested in their units and General Juan C. Curutchet, chief of the Army Second Division, and General Manuel Fernandez, director of the Arms and Services School, asked Garcia to review this and other measures. Curutchet and Fernandez belong to the Cavalry.

In addition to the concern over the uncertainty about the changes under study, there is concern about the personalized leadership style in an institution that for the past few years has become accustomed to the collegiate command.

A high level military source said: "I believe these measures, which affect everyone, should be talked about, discussed, and studied in detail but without reaching a corporate command." Another source admitted: "The problem is that the Army is no longer used to the command."

Since he took over, Garcia has not called for even a single meeting of the board of generals.

The commander said publicly that he would manage the institution along the lines of "an enterprise." He implemented an internal restructuring through which he sought to strengthen the vertical chain of command and thus obtain "the highest level of efficiency, within the possibilities of the country." (BUSQUEDA No. 710).

The efforts by the new Army commander in chief are in line with the objectives outlined by President Luis Alberto Lacalle, who on 30 March issued an "executive order" to the military commanders to study a restructuring to adapt the institution to the new concepts of efficacy and efficiency. Four months later, the armed branches delivered a document that was studied by the executive branch.

Member of UN Forces in Mozambique Feared Dead

PY1412000393 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 8 Dec 93 p 4

[Excerpts] The Army General Command reported last night that Nelson Pereira Lezcano, an Uruguayan soldier serving with the 2d Uruguay Batallion in Mozambique, disappeared while swimming in the ocean, and that a search to find him was unsuccessful. [passage omitted]

If his death is confirmed he would be the seventh casualty among Uruguayan peacekeeping forces abroad, as three died in Cambodia and three in Mozambique. [passage omitted]